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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the proposal to allow tsunami victims in Japan to temporarily relocate to the CNMI?

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to cast your vote.

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Tourism Students
Students learn about the importance of the tourism industry to the islands.

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American Victim
A Virginia couple mourns the death of their daughter in disaster-ravaged Japan.

NATION...Page 14

Just Anna
In fashion circles and beyond, she's just Anna. To others, she's Anna Wintour.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

AG: Budget law provision on hiring restrictions unconstitutional

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The fiscal year 2011 budget law's provision requiring the Legislature's approval for filling in critical vacant positions for full-time employees in government agencies—even those under the Executive and Judicial branches—is unconstitutional.

The Office of the Attorney General issued yesterday a 12-page legal opinion stating that Section 602 of Public Law 17-21, as currently drafted, conflicts in part with both the CNMI Constitution and existing statutes.

The AG opinion said the fiscal year 2011 budget law's provision is "subject to constitutional challenge."

Attorney General Ed Buckingham, in his AG Opinion 2011-01, said that, by preventing the Executive Branch from filling vacancies that happen after the enactment

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ECONOMIC RESTORATION SUMMIT

'CNMI could learn from Hawaii strategy'

Former Honolulu mayor Muliufi Francis "Mufi" Hannemann, the keynote speaker in yesterday's opening of the Economic Restoration Summit, addresses a crowd of over 150 on how the CNMI can learn from Hawaii's tourism experience and shares pointers on how the CNMI's identified alternative industries can prosper. The two-day summit at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe wraps up today.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Former Honolulu mayor Francis "Mufi" Hannemann said the CNMI should continue marketing itself as a tourism destination even during tough financial times, especially when it's the only industry that's fueling the economy—a point hammered on the Fitial administration and the Legislature as they continue to give less money to the islands' tourism agency.

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Initial readings show no radiation risks

»Air samples to be sent to Alabama

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A portable radiation monitoring machine that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set up on Saipan on Monday confirmed yesterday that the CNMI remains free of any radioactive materials from Japan.

Air samples were also collected to be sent to the U.S. EPA's laboratory in Alabama for analysis.

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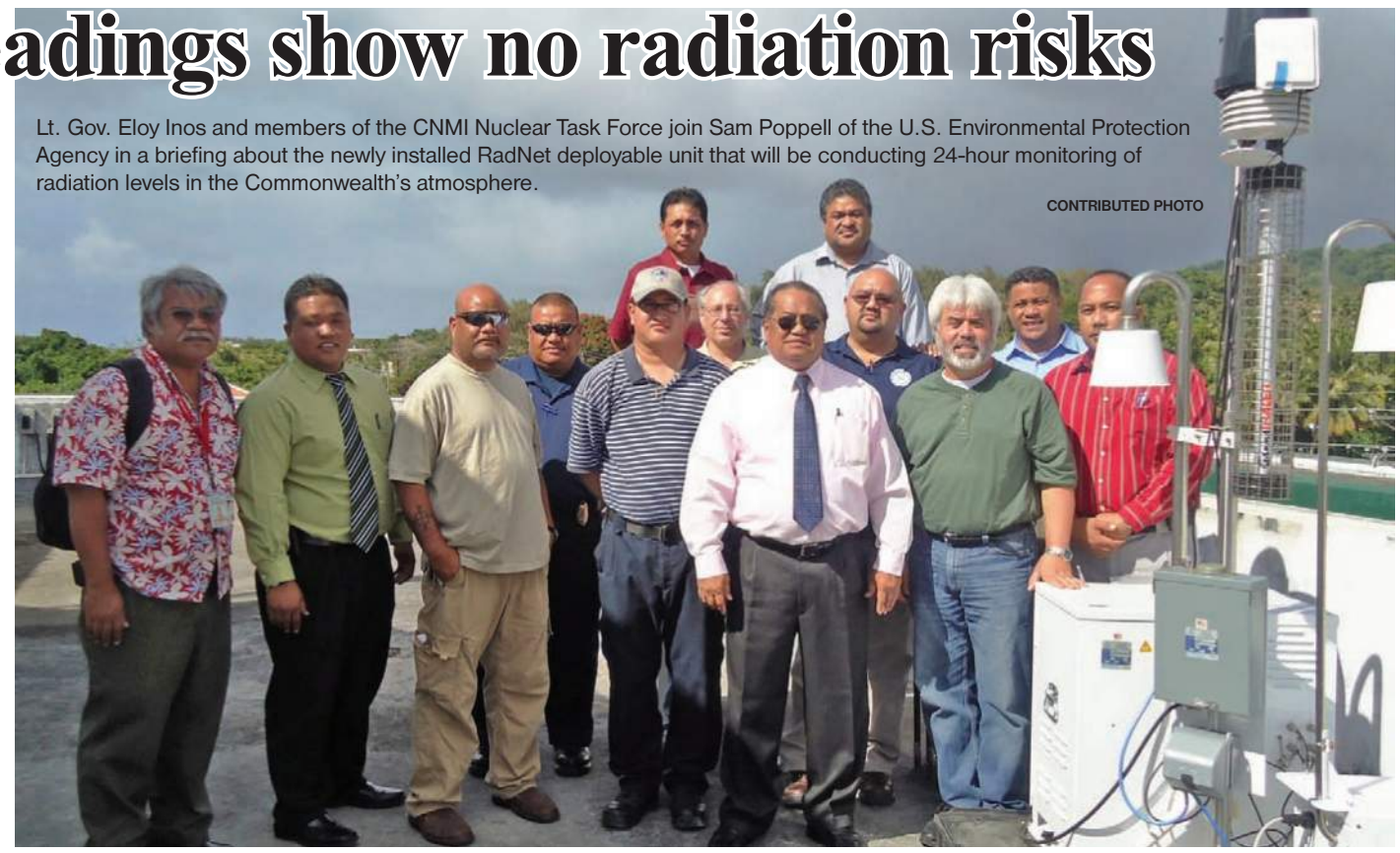
ON THE NET
RadNet readings:
http://www.epa.gov/radiation/rert/radnet-data.html



Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and members of the CNMI Nuclear Task Force join Sam Poppell of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in a briefing about the newly installed RadNet deployable unit that will be conducting 24-hour monitoring of radiation levels in the Commonwealth's atmosphere.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Use a geotourism approach to revive CNMI tourism' PAGE 2
USCIS to begin accepting H-1B petitions on April 1. PAGE 2

Local

'Use a geotourism approach to revive CNMI tourism'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The editor of the *National Geographic Traveler* believes the Commonwealth needs to adopt a different approach in marketing the islands in order to revive its ailing visitor industry.

"My main recommendation of course is to adopt more of a geotourism approach, providing experiences unique to the CNMI, rather than relying on generic sun-and-sand mass tourism that can be undercut by competing destinations and which does little to develop traveler loyalty," said Jonathan B. Tourtellot.

He defines geotourism as tourism that sustains or enhances the geographic character of a place—its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents.

Visitors, he said, need to experience the elements of natural, cultural, and historic heritage unique to the Marianas; right now, only World War II history is well presented on island.

Research suggests that the growing geotraveler market segment spends more per tourist, Tourtellot said, and may be more respectful of the local environment and culture.

It would, of course, be for the better if an economy relies on not just one industry. "Yes, it's always good to have more than one industry. Relying only on tourism leaves places vulnerable to upsets such as the current Japanese crisis, and additional industries can make the place more interesting to visit," he added.

For CNMI tourism to succeed, he said people of the CNMI must become more involved and active in tourism. Foreign-owned companies, no matter how benevolent, still have to put their own interests ahead of the CNMI's, he added.

Although easy to count, it is "very dangerous" to measure success simply by number of tourist arrivals, he said. The best measure is benefit-per-tourist.

"One hundred tourists each spending $5,000 is better than 10,000 tourists spending $50 each [the cruise-ship pattern]. Both provide $500,000, but the second overcrowds the place, changes its character, and worst of all, drives away more beneficial tourists."

Beyond NMI control

After examining the CNMI tourism situation, Tourtellot believes some of the reasons for tourism failure were out of the CNMI's control. But by buying into a generic, mass-tourism model, Saipan left itself undifferentiated from similar "paradises."

"For the tourist, why make an extra effort to come to Saipan if other places offer the same thing cheaper?" he asked.

He described casinos, shopping malls, and golf courses as typical of generic entertainment and recreational-style tourism. At best, it's a weak, undifferentiated offering; at worst, it's off-putting for more desirable tourists, he said.

"Better for people to become more involved in presenting their culture, heritage, and natural environment. It would be nice, for instance, for a visitor to be able to experience a Chamorro restaurant, a Carolinian cultural tour, a marine ecology adventure; to stay in an atmospheric boutique hotel, and visit a life-size replica of a latte-stone lodge," he said.

Indeed, he added, the latte stones are the pyramids of the Marianas and deserve more attention, respect, and better presentation. "Tourism will benefit from it, and no place but the Marianas has them."

Some observations

In his visit to the islands, Tourtellot found out that it's difficult for visitors to find Chamorro cultural shows. He said it took an independent traveler like him three days to find a restaurant that serves chicken *kelaguen*. "Such facts of indigenous culture could be much more accessible for visitors," he said.

He decribed the Paseo de Marianas as a "social failure" because it is situated in the wrong place—walled off from the beach by a hotel with no nearby parking and a flavor clearly pitched to tourists only.

Tourtellot said Saipan gives an overwhelming first impression because of miles and miles of commercial junk architecture.

He also noticed too much graffiti that destroy the charm of the environment, the La Fiesta eyesore, and the poor maintenance of some historic sites, including the unfunded museum, which can be a major attraction.

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USCIS to begin accepting H-1B petitions for FY 2012 on April 1

»CNMI, Guam exempt from cap until 2014

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will start accepting H-1B petitions for fiscal year 2012 starting April 1.

Petitions filed on behalf of beneficiaries who will work only in the CNMI or Guam are exempt from the cap until Dec. 31, 2014, USCIS said.

In the CNMI, employers are looking forward to a prevailing wage study or survey that they could use to support petitions for federal work visas such as those under the H-1B or H-2B programs.

U.S. businesses use the H-1B program to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Such workers include scientists, engineers, and computer programmers, among others.

The H-2B program, meanwhile, allows the entry of foreign workers into the U.S. on a temporary basis when qualified U.S. workers are not available and when the employment of those foreign workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers.

USCIS, one of the component agencies within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, said the cap or the numerical limit on H-1B petitions for fiscal year 2012 is 65,000.

The first 20,000 H-1B petitions filed on behalf of individuals with U.S. master's degrees or higher are exempt.

But again, petitions filed on behalf of workers for the CNMI or Guam are exempt from the cap until 2014.

Employers may continue to file petitions for these cap-exempt H-1B categories for beneficiaries who will start work during fiscal years 2011 or 2012.

In addition to petitions filed on behalf of people with U.S. master's degrees or higher, certain other petitions are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap.

These include those filed on behalf of beneficiaries who will work at institutions of higher education or related or affiliated nonprofit entities, nonprofit research organizations, or governmental research organizations.

USCIS said H-1B petitioners should follow all statutory and regulatory requirements as they prepare petitions to avoid delays in processing and possible requests for evidence.

More information on the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program and current Form I-129 processing times are available on www.uscis.gov.

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Bird Island beach and Jeffries Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

MHS students learn the value of diversity, tourism

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Twenty-eight Marianas High School students under the Cooperative Education and Training program and Tourism classes listened to presentations about cultural diversity as well as the importance of the tourism industry to the islands at the Hyatt Regency's Saipan's Chamolinian Room yesterday.

Hyatt marketing communications assistant manager Luis Villagomez, who arranged the presentation, said this was the first time they conducted the presentations as part of efforts to save the islands' remaining industry.

"We want to reach out to the youth and promote island hospitality to help our ailing tourism industry," Villagomez told reporters.

He said the presentation was timely since travel writers Sandra and John Scott of New York are on island to learn about the CNMI and support cultural diversity and friendship through stuffed toys "Annie & Blue."

Annie & Blue visit schools and interesting places around the world to practice and promote the four peace principles: understanding cultures, breaking down stereotypes, respecting cultural differences, and celebrating diversity.

See MHS on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas High School students hold traveling toys Annie & Blue as they pose for a photo with travel writers Sandra and John Scott yesterday at the Chamolinian Room of Hyatt Regency.

Joeten foundation donates 20K to Japan relief efforts

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The charitable arm of the Joeten Group of Companies joins the rest of the community in showing compassion to all victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11.

The Joeten Charitable Foundation presented a $10,000 check to the American Red Cross – NMI Chapter and another $10,000 to the Japan Consular Office to assist in the relief efforts for all the disaster victims.

Joeten Group president Clarence T. Tenorio said he watched with horror the great devastation and suffering of the people of Japan.

"The Joeten Group of Companies feels that it is their duty to make donations to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's joint fundraiser drive with the Consulate of Japan, Consul General Tsutomu Higuchi and the American Red Cross – CNMI Chapter to benefit the victims of this disaster," he said in a statement.

"It also firmly believes that when these tragedies strike, it is important for businesses to step up to the plate and assist in any way possible," he added.

Tenorio urged other organizations in the CNMI to do a similar gesture and assist the earthquake and tsunami victims "who are struggling during these heartbreaking times."

He believes that the people of Japan will come out stronger from this tragedy.

"Always remember that God will never give us more than we can bear. He will be with you and the affected families through every step of the way. Our hearts and prayers are in unity with the Japanese people," said Tenorio.

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TOYOTA

CNMI

From Page 1

Hannemann was the keynote speaker at yesterday's opening of the two-day Economic Restoration Summit at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

Over 150 participants showed up at the summit, said Jim Arenovski of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Participants praised Hannemann's presentation on how the CNMI could learn from Hawaii's tourism strategy.

Hannemann, now president of the Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association, emphasized Hawaii's simple strategies to promote and maintain its $11-billion tourism industry, including ensuring public safety, giving importance to infrastructure and construction, and consistent marketing as a tourism destination.

He also urged emphasis on cultural and environmental experience for tourists, availability of air service, ensuring a balance between hospitality and security, and taking advantage of the military buildup in Guam to shore up tourism.

Honolulu, he said, has worked hard to maintain the area as a "safe" tourist destination.

A NOTE OF CONDOLENCE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and his wife Andrea sign the Book of Condolences for earthquake and tsunami victims at the Japan Consulate Monday morning. Sablan partly wrote, "My heart, thoughts, and prayers goes out to the people of Japan during this very difficult time. May God bless the people of Japan." Sablan said that many in the Northern Mariana Islands and in America will support Japan's recovery and knows that Japan will be even stronger from the recovery. The congressman also delivered a letter to Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi from Rep. Judy Chu, chairwoman of the Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus, and a letter from himself.

Hannemann's strong emphasis on public safety as 12th mayor of Honolulu led to the city being named by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as one of the "safest big cities" in the U.S.

He said the CNMI should never neglect marketing itself as a tourist destination.

"The government has the responsibility to provide marketing funds," he said.

Hannemann said Hawaii has been collecting $70 million in hotel room tax, and this is specifically used for marketing the state as a tourism destination.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, the CNMI government agency tasked with tourism promotion and marketing, was only given $6.1 million funding in fiscal year 2011 out of a budget request of $10.5 million.

Guam, on the other hand, had an operating budget of $12.19 million in FY 2010 for its tourism agency.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, who was also at the summit, said despite the low budget, MVA has kept its promotions offices open in Japan and South Korea, the CNMI's main tourism markets.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, for his part, said Hannemann raised a lot of important issues but he said the CNMI does its best to fund tourism promotion and marketing despite financial challenges.

He said the Legislature also understands these challenges.

"We hope the Legislature works together with us and MVA but he (Hannemann) hit it right on the nail, on the need for advertisement, promotion, stuff like that… The other stuff we could do," he said.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said it's "leadership" and "patience" that will help the CNMI tourism industry weather the crisis, in addition to proper funding for MVA.

Benavente, a former lieutenant governor, said the Fitial administration has not been remitting to MVA its monthly allotment, impacting MVA's ability to promote and market the CNMI as a tourism destination.

MVA's Tenorio confirmed this delay and partial remittances to MVA by the Department of Finance.

Hannemann emphasized that the CNMI should always remember that tourism is its core competence.

"It's what you have been known for. It's what you do best and it's been your biggest driver in the economy so I would suggest to continue strengthen tourism," he said in an interview later.

Hannemann also said the CNMI should also not neglect its tourism and related infrastructure. He said when he was mayor of Honolulu, he raised sewer fees to be able to set aside funds that will address sewage spill when it happens. A major sewage spill happened during his term.

As for the crisis in Japan resulting from a 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami on March 11, Hannemann said the CNMI is right on track in lending a helping hand.

He said in the meantime, to compensate for the temporary loss in tourism from Japan, the CNMI could strengthen its marketing campaign to entice tourists from South Korea and China.

He also called on the CNMI to make its voice heard in the implementation of the Travel Promotion Act which promotes the U.S. and its territories as a whole, to international travelers.

Alternative industries and the 3 P's

As for the five other alternative industries that the two-day summit are focused on—agriculture, aquaculture, call/data centers, education tourism, and eco-tourism—Hannemann said the CNMI should remember the "3 P's."

These are: Patience, Partnership, and Promise of a Better Future.

"There's no quick fix. It's going to take time…There may be a series of setbacks," he said, of the alternative industries proposed at the summit.

Hannemann, who marked his fifth visit to Saipan for the summit, said the historic Oahu rail transit project, for example, has taken years to be developed.

He said the government cannot take care of tourism by itself; it needs the private sector and other community stakeholders to partner with it. He said workforce development is also needed.

The former mayor, a Harvard University graduate, said a "promising future" is going to require the people of today to "make sacrifices so that tomorrow we'll reap the benefits."

Diversification

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in his welcoming remarks, said the diversification of the CNMI economy "is key to ensuring a sustainable economy for our future." Acting Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar echoed this.

"The identification of these industries is a good first step, but we must now be able to identify the feasibility of these industries given the variety of unique dynamics which impact our economic health," Inos said.

Inos, a former Finance secretary, said the next step will be to develop industry specific plans for each of the targeted areas.

Just like Hannemann, Inos said "there is no quick fix."

"The economy is more than money coming into our islands. It's about the ability to create local employment and developing a strong infrastructure to ensure that industries can thrive. It's about responsible planning and favorable economic policies that would attract sound investments," he said, adding the continuous challenge of maintaining flight capacity.

He said while the CNMI once enjoyed a more prosperous economy, it can rebound through proper planning and effective policies.

"We did not invest in our infrastructure as we should have. We did not diversify our economic drivers as we should have. Nor did we spend as frugally as we should have to ensure the long-term success of our economy. We now have the opportunity to plan for success and we ask that the community engage in this process as we all have a stake in our islands future," he said.

Summit participants also heard from industry experts, including Dr. Addison Lee Lawrence, a professor and regents fellow at Texas A&M University, on aquaculture; Rommel G. Catalma, operations manager of Saipan SyAqua, on shrimp farming; and Frank J. Cruz, a horticulturist with the University of Guam's Agriculture and Natural Resources Department, on agriculture.

The others were Jack Johnston, who has more than 10 years of call center development and general management, on call and data centers; Dr. Linda J. Cox, a community economic development specialist in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii in Manoa for over 27 years, on eco-tourism; and Jill Nickels, the owner of On The Edge Travel, on education tourism.

Today, summit participants will have breakout sessions, and present their findings.

AG

From Page 1

of the budget, PL 17-21 allows the Legislature to lower the cap on the number of persons that "may be employed by each branch, department, agency, authority, and public corporation of the Commonwealth to which public funds are appropriated" without passage of a new appropriations bill.

He said this is an impermissible delegation of a constitutionally required duty.

Buckingham concludes that the Legislature is without authority to enact a statute that requires, in every situation where a personnel vacancy occurs, legislative approval in order to fill such positions.

He said the approval power sought by the Legislature is akin to the advice and consent power given to the Senate, but more far-reaching.

Buckingham said such an approval process contravenes the separation of powers doctrine implicit in Section 203 of the Covenant, and is beyond the advice and consent authority delegated by the Constitution to the Senate.

He said this is also well outside of the parameters set by 1 CMC 8135 as to the filling of vacant positions in government agencies.

"As such, PL 17-21, Section 602(a) and (b), violate the separation of powers doctrine in the Commonwealth and are subject to constitutional challenge," Buckingham said.

He said the power to hire, manage, and/or terminate Executive Branch employees is an Executive Branch function.

He said any legislative involvement in that process must be specifically granted by the Constitution.

However, section 602 of PL 17-21 purports to give to the Legislature the power to approve the creation of and hiring of employees for any position in the Executive Branch that has become vacant.

Buckingham said this power has not been given to the Legislature in the Constitution.

He said Sections 11 and 14 of Article III of the Constitution set the maximum parameters of the Legislature's power and that power is limited to the confirmation of executive appointments, not to all employee positions that may become vacant.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Covt-Saipan), as early as January, said the budget law's provision on hiring is unconstitutional.

Buckingham, when asked whether the Legislature should amend the law, said this "is a policy question for the Legislature."

"The administration respects that the Legislature is a separate and equal branch of government. We face significant challenges and look forward to continuing a dialogue toward solutions that benefit the Commonwealth," Buckingham told *Saipan Tribune*.

INITIAL

From Page 1

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the RadNet deployable unit's readings from the gamma sensor indicate only "background" levels of 0.0050 milliroentgens per hour or mR/hr.

This is far below the level that would trigger concerns, which is in the range of 0.06 mR/hr.

"Background" radiation is the form of radiation that is constantly present in the environment and is emitted from a variety of natural and artificial sources.

"Current results from the RadNet unit further confirm that there are no risks of threatening radiation exposure to the residents of the CNMI," Demapan said.

In general, if there are particulates from radiation fallout in the CNMI, the RadNet unit will be indicating results in the range of 0.06 mR/hr.

"So the CNMI's current level is in fact very farfetched from the level that would trigger mounting concerns," he said.

U.S. EPA Radiological Emergency Response Team commander Sam Poppell arrived on Saipan Sunday night to set up the RadNet unit that arrived Saturday.

CNMI residents can soon see the readings on the EPA website at http://www.epa.gov/radiation/rert/radnet-data.html.

Demapan, who is a member of the CNMI Nuclear Task Force, also said initial air samples were collected yesterday and are now in the process of being shipped to the EPA's laboratory in Alabama.

He said air samples will be shipped regularly as an added safeguard in addition to the analysis that is being collected through the gamma ray sensors.

The task force has also been receiving updates from federal agencies about Japan's radiation crisis, which was triggered by the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami on March 11 that damaged nuclear power plant reactors in the Fukushima Prefecture.

CNMI-bound mail and cargo are also now undergoing additional checks for radiation in Guam, to allay fears related to the radiation fallout in Japan.

Demapan said all the necessary checks are in place to monitor the safety of the air, water, and food in the CNMI. Even passengers from Japan are also undergoing checks for radiation.

All these checks indicate no harmful levels of radiation in the CNMI.

EPA said in a statement that it does not expect to see radiation at harmful levels reaching the U.S. from damaged Japanese nuclear power plants.

The federal agency is using RadNet, a nationwide radiation monitoring system that continuously monitors the nation's air and regularly monitors drinking water, milk, and precipitation for environmental radiation. As of yesterday, EPA's RadNet radiation air monitors across the U.S. showed typical fluctuations in background radiation levels. The levels detected are far below levels of concern, EPA said.

MHS

From Page 3

"Wherever you go, people smile in the same language," Sandra Scott told the students.

During her presentation, Scott showed slides highlighting Annie & Blue's travels to different countries and how two simple stuffed toys help break cultural and language barriers.

Scott also noted the importance of blogging about the CNMI to help promote the islands and attract more people to see its treasures.

"We're very grateful for Annie & Blue for inviting us. The students were very interested in the presentations and made them appreciate the culture of the islands a little bit more," said Co-op program coordinator and tourism teacher Tyce Mister.

Through the presentations, Mister said the students also realized the value of tourism, which is the islands' remaining industry.

"It's important that they realize this since our youth are going to be our leaders in the near future," Mister told *Saipan Tribune*.

Mister also commended the Scotts' method of celebrating cultural diversity through Annie & Blue.

"Having taken Annie & Blue on a global tour to explain about understanding and respecting differences in cultures is a powerful tool," he said.

Nematodes affecting local crops

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The presence of nematodes or roundworms affects the growth and production of most local crops in the CNMI, according to Dr. Marisol Quintanilla.

"Nematode is a big factor in the reduction of plant growth, productivity, and plant life," said Quintanilla during the Rotary Club of Saipan's general membership meeting yesterday at Giovanni's Restaurant.

Quintanilla is with the Northern Marianas College–Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services and is the only nematologist in the region.

According to Quintanilla, she discovered the presence of nematodes after checking locally grown plants like tomatoes and lettuce.

"I think every plant we have on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota has nematodes," she added.

Quintanilla disclosed that nematodes are "very diverse" and have different types, such as ones that feed on plants, bacteria, and omnivore nematodes that eat everything.

She said nematodes also vary in sizes as there are some that are very small and microscopic while others grow meters in length.

According to Quintanilla, most farmers on island are unaware of the presence of nematodes in their plants.

Quintanilla said some of the plant parasitic nematodes on tropical areas that she found in local bananas are *Helicotylenchus, Meloidogyne,* and *Pratylenchus*.

Sweet potatoes, the number one crop on Rota, are also affected by root parasites, which create holes in the crop and give it a bittersweet taste.

On the other hand, tapioca is not susceptible to fungi and parasites because the crop has its "own defenses."

"Tapioca produces cyanide that protects it from a lot of pests. It kind of defends it from all these parasites and fungi," Quintanilla said, adding that preparing tapioca should be handled properly to eliminate all cyanide in the crop.

According to Quintanilla, these nematodes can be controlled through various methods such as exclusion, which includes quarantine; soil quality management; solarization; cover crops; soil additives; nematicides; and plant resistance.

Quintanilla noted the importance of quarantining all crops and products imported to the CNMI to prevent new pests from coming in.

Badminton group donates $500 for disaster relief in Japan

As part of its community service, the Northern Marianas Badminton Association made a donation to further the relief efforts for the victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11.

NMBA secretary general Merlie Tolentino presented a check donation worth $500 to American Red Cross-NMI Chapter on March 16 at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

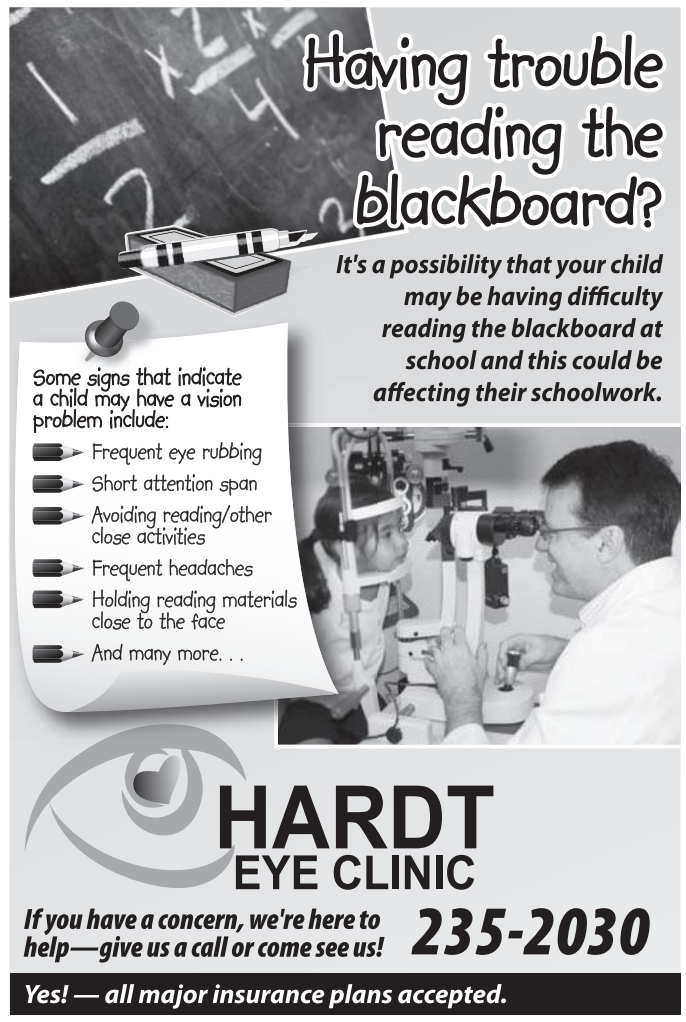
Red Cross executive director John Hirsh, along with board members Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero, Jerry Facey, and Lou Johnson, accepted the donation, which will then be forwarded to the Japan chapter.

"The devastation facing the people of Japan from the combined earthquake and tsunami disaster deeply touches all of us in our community. We hope that our contribution can help those impacted by this tragedy as they rebuild their lives and communities," Tolentino told *Saipan Tribune*.

Japan Consul to the Northern Mariana Islands Tsutomu Higuchi, who witnessed the donation, expressed his gratitude to the NMBA and the CNMI community for their assistance. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Northern Marianas Badminton Association secretary general Merlie Tolentino, fifth from left, hands the $500 donation to American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh during a presentation last March 16. In photo are, from left, NMBA treasurer Shirley Kim, Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi, Red Cross board member Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero, NMBA vice president Puy Macario, Tolentino, Hirsh, Red Cross board member Lou Johnson, NMBA president Jerry Tan, and board member Robert Reyes.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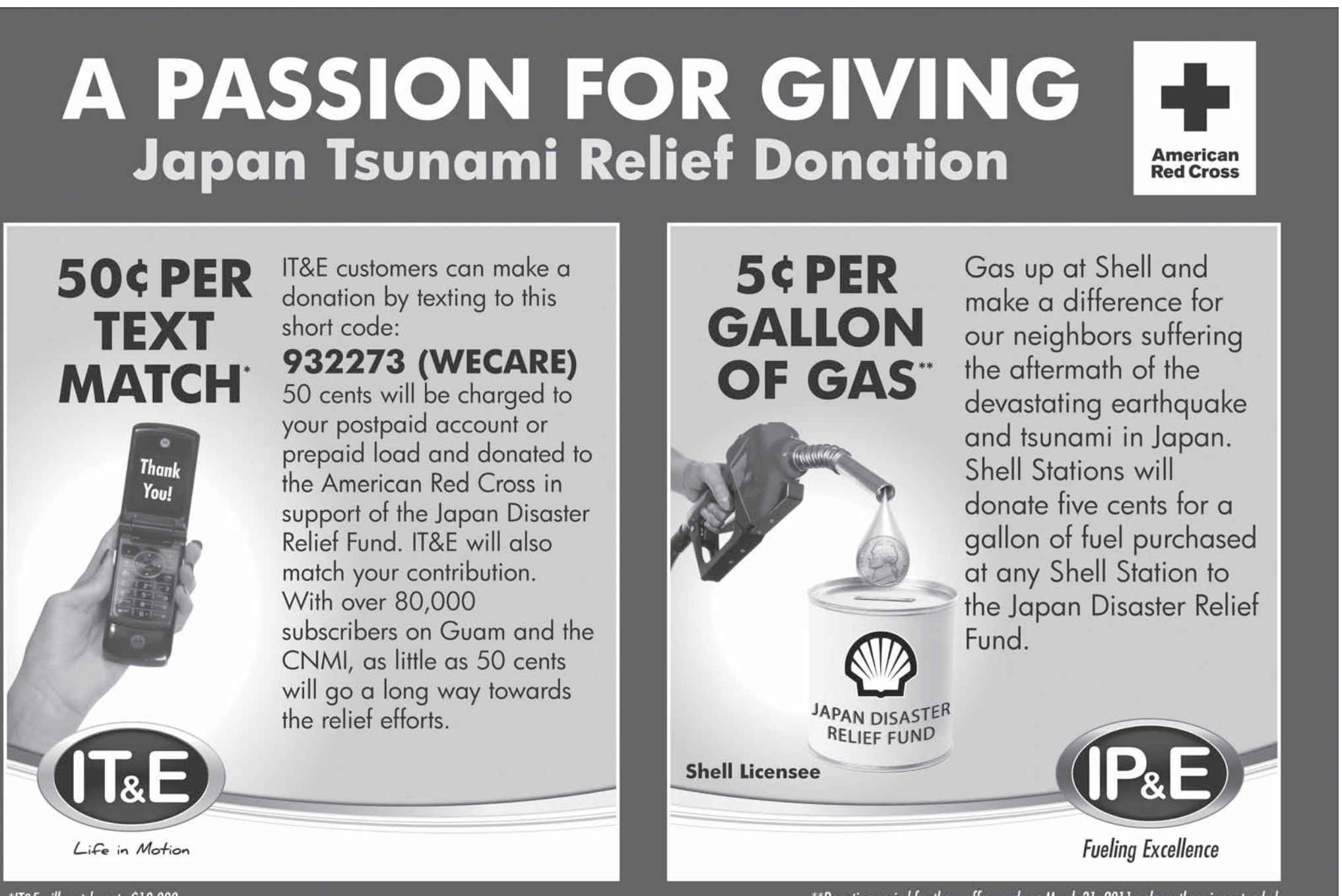
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Man allegedly abuses girl; man nabbed for threats vs brother

Police arrested a 40-year-old man on Rota Friday night for allegedly sexually abusing a female minor, while another was arrested on Saipan over the weekend for brandishing a machete and threatening to kill his brother.

Rogelio Nuesca Dela Cruz was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Bail was initially set at $10,000 cash. Dela Cruz was set to appear Monday afternoon at Saipan Superior Court for a bail hearing.

Rufino Faisao Tudela, 43, was apprehended for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault, and disturbing the peace. Bail was initially set at $6,000 cash.

Sgt. Jonathan D. Garces stated in his report that police received a call about a sexual assault incident in Sinapalo I on Friday at 8:05pm.

Garces said the girl had told her mother about Dela Cruz calling her to a dark area near their house and touching her private parts. At the time, the suspect was allegedly drunk.

Garces said a neighbor had seen the child and Dela Cruz behind a white pickup truck in front of the house.

A police officer arrested Dela Cruz at 8:34pm that day.

In Tudela's case, detective Jeffrey Norita stated in his report that the defendant and his nephew had gone to the house of his brother in Kagman II on Friday night.

The nephew was yelling out and asking for a fight. He allegedly punched the kitchen's glass window, shattering the glass panels. The nephew also hit one of the side view mirrors of the victim's pickup truck, breaking it.

Tudela was allegedly holding a machete and threatening to kill his brother.

Tudela and his nephew later fled aboard a vehicle. That's when the victim called police.

A police officer later found Tudela's nephew at the Commonwealth Health Center where he was being treated for lacerations on the right arm. A doctor pulled out a few pieces of glass found on the nephew's arm.

Police later arrested Tudela, but did not indicate in the report if the nephew was also detained. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PSS opposes bill providing no limits on double-dippers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education and the Public School System are opposing a bill that would eliminate the time limit for double-dippers and allow retirees to be re-employed in various fields such as classroom teachers and medical professionals.

Senate Legislative Initiative 17-03, which is pending in the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, proposes to amend the Constitution to allow retirees to be re-employed as teachers, doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals without loss of retirement benefits, regardless of the individual's occupation prior to retirement, to eliminate the time limit on such re-employment, and to expand the term "medical professionals" to include dentists, dental lab technicians, dental assistants, medical lab technicians, medical assistants, therapists, veterinarians, animal health officer, etc.

The law also allows only two years of double-dipping for classroom teachers, doctors, and nurses.

According to board chair Marylou Ada and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, the measure does not contain any analysis of the number of retirees that are interested in re-entering the workforce as teachers.

"We believe that this initiative defeats the purpose of the retirement system and limits opportunities for our younger generation. There are a sufficient number of NMI students graduating from college and universities to replace retiring teachers," Ada and Sablan told the House committee in a letter concurred by the Education Board.

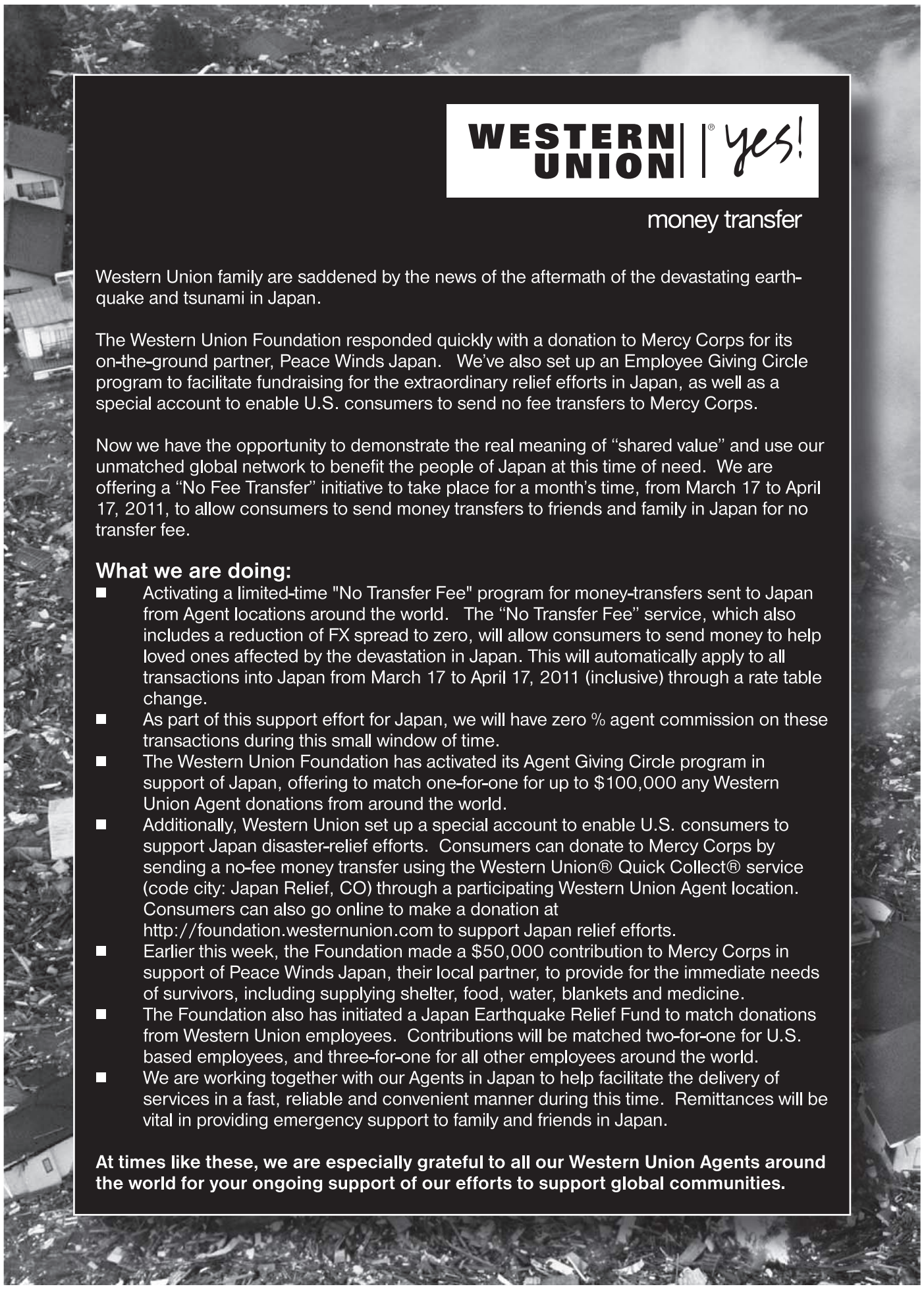
They said the CNMI has invested a lot in scholarship funds to enable students to go to college and return home to teach at public and private schools.

"We should support these young teachers rather than provide economic incentives to retirees to teach, which effectively could make it impossible for these young teachers to teach in the CNMI," they said.

"Let us continue to find ways to provide incentives for our youth to reside in the CNMI and obtain employment in our schools rather than limiting their opportunities through this initiative," they said.

Ada and Sablan said the measure does not define its benefit to PSS and, without such concrete information, they cannot weigh the potential benefit to the viability of both the Fund and the PSS.

"Given this lack of information, we cannot minimize the risk to the continued viability of the CNMI Retirement Fund. The passage of this initiative could have the result of placing a significant further burden upon this already burdened agency," they added.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Western Union family are saddened by the news of the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan.
The Western Union Foundation responded quickly with a donation to Mercy Corps for its on-the-ground partner, Peace Winds Japan. We've also set up an Employee Giving Circle program to facilitate fundraising for the extraordinary relief efforts in Japan, as well as a special account to enable U.S. consumers to send no fee transfers to Mercy Corps.
Now we have the opportunity to demonstrate the real meaning of "shared value" and use our unmatched global network to benefit the people of Japan at this time of need. We are offering a "No Fee Transfer" initiative to take place for a month's time, from March 17 to April 17, 2011, to allow consumers to send money transfers to friends and family in Japan for no transfer fee.
What we are doing:
Activating a limited-time "No Transfer Fee" program for money-transfers sent to Japan from Agent locations around the world. The "No Transfer Fee" service, which also includes a reduction of FX spread to zero, will allow consumers to send money to help loved ones affected by the devastation in Japan. This will automatically apply to all transactions into Japan from March 17 to April 17, 2011 (inclusive) through a rate table change.
As part of this support effort for Japan, we will have zero % agent commission on these transactions during this small window of time.
The Western Union Foundation has activated its Agent Giving Circle program in support of Japan, offering to match one-for-one for up to $100,000 any Western Union Agent donations from around the world.
Additionally, Western Union set up a special account to enable U.S. consumers to support Japan disaster-relief efforts. Consumers can donate to Mercy Corps by sending a no-fee money transfer using the Western Union® Quick Collect® service (code city: Japan Relief, CO) through a participating Western Union Agent location. Consumers can also go online to make a donation at http://foundation.westernunion.com to support Japan relief efforts.
Earlier this week, the Foundation made a $50,000 contribution to Mercy Corps in support of Peace Winds Japan, their local partner, to provide for the immediate needs of survivors, including supplying shelter, food, water, blankets and medicine.
The Foundation also has initiated a Japan Earthquake Relief Fund to match donations from Western Union employees. Contributions will be matched two-for-one for U.S. based employees, and three-for-one for all other employees around the world.
We are working together with our Agents in Japan to help facilitate the delivery of services in a fast, reliable and convenient manner during this time. Remittances will be vital in providing emergency support to family and friends in Japan.
At times like these, we are especially grateful to all our Western Union Agents around the world for your ongoing support of our efforts to support global communities.

New SBDC director is Saipan municipal council member

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council member Ralph Yumul has been hired as director of the CNMI Small Business Development Center, which provides training and counseling to existing and potential small businesses.

Yumul is the third person hired for the post since the CNMI SBDC reopened on June 15, 2010, after 10 years of inactivity.

Yumul, who replaces Chris Sablan as SBDC director, said he's "very excited" to accept the position.

His first day at work was on Feb. 22, he said in an interview at the opening of the two-day Economic Restoration Summit at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday.

Sixto Igisomar, the acting Commerce secretary, said the SBDC director position has an annual salary of $40,000, but a portion of it is reimbursed by the federal government.

Igisomar said the hiring of a new SBDC director will help strengthen the small business sector, considering that the CNMI is in a tough economic condition.

SBDC provides small business owners with opportunities that can help them improve their existing businesses or assist them in establishing a new one. It aids small business owners through confidential business counseling, trainings, and community outreach.

Casey Jeszenka, network director of the Pacific Islands SBDC Network, said Yumul was selected from four applicants, and with recommendation from the Commerce Department.

"We're very excited to welcome him on board," Jeszenka said, also at the summit.

Besides his personal qualifications, Yumul also comes from a family with lots of businesses in the CNMI. Jeszenka said this has provided Yumul with a wider knowledge of starting up and maintaining a business.

The CNMI SBDC's reopening in June 2010 was a collaborative effort between the CNMI Department of Commerce, the Commonwealth Development Authority, the University of Guam, PISBDCN, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

When the CNMI SBDC reopened, it was headed by Gary Liddle, who left SBDC three months later or on Sept. 27, 2010.

In early October 2010, Chris Sablan, the former compliance officer with CNMI American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program, replaced Liddle.

Igisomar said Sablan left SBDC for family and medical reasons. This led to the hiring of Yumul on March 22.

The CNMI SBDC office is at the Department of Commerce building on Capital Hill.

Default judgment vs Reksid for $31K debt

The Superior Court granted yesterday the Bank of Guam's request to issue a default judgment against Department of Public Lands special assistant to the secretary Franz B. Reksid for not responding to the bank's lawsuit.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the default judgment against Reksid for over $31,000 that he owes the bank.

The bank, through counsel Robert T. Torres, filed the lawsuit in 2010.

Neither Reksid nor his lawyer appeared at yesterday's hearing.

Reksid is expected to appear today, Wednesday, at 4pm for his arraignment in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The U.S. government indicted the 70-year-old Reksid Friday with seven counts of wire fraud and one count of bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

The indictment alleged that from January 2009 to August 2009, Reksid borrowed money from friends, associates, and relatives, telling them different stories about why he needed the money. He allegedly asked for and received from at least 14 victims a total amount that exceeded $300,000.

Reksid allegedly wired part of the $300,000 from the CNMI to Ivory Coast and Nigeria. He also allegedly solicited $3,000 from the owner of a business that was seeking to obtain a contract with DPL. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Couple wins bid for cockfight arena

Cockfight arena owners Nathan and Lucy Sablan won their bid to continue their operations at their Middle Road location.

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores disclosed that the Sablan couple's bid was set at $41,000.

According to Flores, the couple's cockfight arena is popular and has been around for years.

"I'm just very pleased that finally, the Sablan's cockfight arena will be operational for another five years. This is good news for all cockfighting lovers on island," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

In related news, another individual nominated to the Saipan Cockpit Board, Edward Pinaula, accepted the position.

Flores disclosed that he is only waiting for one more nominee, a Filipino representative of the United Cockers and Breeders Federation of Saipan, to accept the position and complete the five-man board. "I invited a representative from the Filipino community because they're very active in cockfighting," he said.

Should the nominee decline the nomination, Flores said he will nominate another local cockfighter to the board. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	052E	3/12 Sat	3/10 Thu	3/10 Thu	3/8 Tue	3/5 Sat	3/18 Fri	3/14 Mon	3/13 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/14 Mon	3/18 Fri	3/20 Sun	3/22 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	018E	3/19 Sat	3/17 Thu	3/17 Thu	3/15 Tue	3/12 Sat	3/25 Fri	3/21 Mon	3/20 Sun	3/13 Sun	3/13 Sun	3/21 Mon	3/25 Fri	3/27 Sun	3/29 Tue
MELL SILOSO	019E	3/26 Sat	3/24 Thu	3/24 Thu	3/22 Tue	3/19 Sat	4/1 Fri	3/28 Mon	3/27 Sun	3/20 Sun	3/20 Sun	3/28 Mon	4/1 Fri	4/3 Sun	4/5 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	053E	4/2 Sat	3/31 Thu	3/31 Thu	3/29 Tue	3/26 Sat	4/8 Fri	4/4 Mon	4/3 Sun	3/27 Sun	3/27 Sun	4/4 Mon	4/8 Fri	4/10 Sun	4/12 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	019E	4/9 Sat	4/7 Thu	4/7 Thu	4/5 Tue	4/2 Sat	4/15 Fri	4/11 Mon	4/10 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/11 Mon	4/15 Fri	4/17 Sun	4/19 Tue
MELL SILOSO	020E	4/16 Sat	4/14 Thu	4/14 Thu	4/12 Tue	4/9 Sat	4/22 Fri	4/18 Mon	4/17 Sun	4/10 Sun	4/10 Sun	4/18 Mon	4/22 Fri	4/24 Sun	4/26 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	052E	3/26 Sat	3/27 Sun	3/27 Sun	SKIP	3/30 Wed	4/1 Fri	4/3 Sun	SKIP	4/8 Fri	4/9 Sat	4/14 Thu	5/3 Tue	4/17 Sun	4/13 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	018E	4/2 Sat	4/3 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/5 Tue	4/6 Wed	4/8 Fri	4/10 Sun	SKIP	4/15 Fri	4/16 Sat	4/21 Thu	5/10 Tue	4/24 Sun	4/20 Wed
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MELL SENTOSA	053E	4/16 Sat	4/17 Sun	4/17 Sun	4/19 Tue	4/20 Wed	4/22 Fri	4/24 Sun	SKIP	4/29 Fri	4/30 Sat	5/5 Thu	5/24 Tue	5/8 Sun	5/4 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	019E	4/23 Sat	4/24 Sun	4/24 Sun	SKIP	4/27 Wed	4/29 Fri	5/1 Sun	SKIP	5/6 Fri	5/7 Sat	5/12 Thu	5/31 Tue	5/15 Sun	5/11 Wed
MELL SILOSO	020E	4/30 Sat	5/1 Sun	5/1 Sun	5/3 Tue	5/4 Wed	5/6 Fri	5/8 Sun	SKIP	5/13 Fri	5/14 Sat	5/19 Thu	6/7 Tue	5/22 Sun	5/18 Wed

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3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

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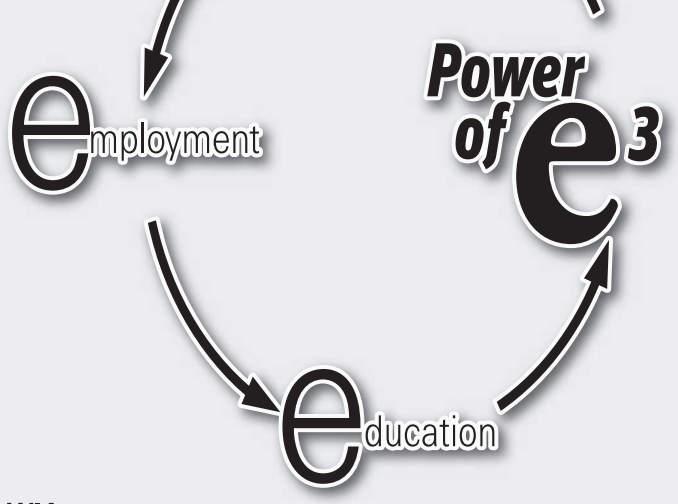

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MAC to pay $826K for pollution violations

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced yesterday that Mariana Acquisition Corp. has agreed to pay $826,000 for allegedly violating the federal Clean Air Act by failing to control emissions from its gasoline storage and distribution facility.

According to the complaint filed simultaneously with the settlement, for more than two decades, Mariana Acquisition, previously doing business as Shell Marianas, failed to install vapor pollution controls and comply with a pollution limit at its bulk gasoline terminal loading area in Puerto Rico, Saipan. Failure to limit its emissions led to the illegal discharge of about 5 tons of volatile organic compounds into the air each year.

"This is EPA's second settlement in a year aimed at improving air quality [on] Saipan," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's regional administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "Similar to the requirements imposed on the Mobil Oil terminals, we are requiring the Mariana Acquisition facility to install controls to cut the health risks to local residents by reducing hazardous air pollutants."

As part of the settlement, Mariana Acquisition will install air pollution controls, as well as limit its facility operations until the controls are installed. Mariana Acquisition estimates that it will spend $2.3 million to bring the bulk gasoline terminal into compliance with the Clean Air Act.

Bulk gasoline terminals are large storage tank facilities where gasoline is loaded into tank trucks for distribution to gasoline service stations. Vapors containing volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants, including the known human carcinogen benzene, can leak from storage tanks, pipes, and tank trucks as they are loaded.

Yesterday's settlement was lodged in the U.S. District Court for Northern Mariana Islands and is subject to a 30-day public comment period and final court approval. A copy of the consent decree is available on the Justice Department website at http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html. ***(EPA)***

Lifoifoi heads CPA board again

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board elected Jose R. Lifoifoi anew as their chairman during their last meeting on Rota.

This marks Lifoifoi's fourth term as chairperson of the board since being appointed to the CPA board in 2009. He will serve the board for four years, until January 2015.

Lifoifoi is currently the chairman of United Micronesia Development Association, Inc.

He also served as CPA chairman for four years until he quit in 2007. He was House speaker of the 5th CNMI Legislature, having been elected to the House of Representatives three consecutive times before becoming House speaker.

Lifoifoi is also the Republic of Palau's honorary consul general to the CNMI.

Elected as the CPA board's new vice chairperson is Manny Villagomez, while Margaret Prater was chosen as board secretary and treasurer.

The board currently has only five members—Lifoifoi, Villagomez, Prater, Benigno Sablan, and newly confirmed member Barrie Toves from Rota—following the expiration of the terms of both Thomas Villagomez and Fermin Sakisat.

After the election, Lifoifoi assigned Toves as chairman of the board's fiscal committee; Prater as head of the personnel panel; while Sablan and Villagomez were chosen to head the seaport and airport facilities committees, respectively.

SHEFA, Zoning board nominees confirmed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation confirmed yesterday two nominees to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board and the Commonwealth Zoning Board.

By a vote of 13-0, the lawmakers confirmed Alicia S. Igitol to serve on the Zoning board.

Igitol replaces Herminia M. Fusco, whose third and final term expired on Feb. 13. Igitol will serve a two-year term on the board.

Lawmakers also voted 13-0 to confirm Jose C. Mafnas's reappointment to the SHEFA board.

Mafnas' original appointment was to finish the term of former SHEFA board member and now House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro. Mayor Donald Flores reappointed Mafnas, who is serving as the SHEFA board chair.

There are 21 members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, but only 13 were present at yesterday's session on Capital Hill.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) separately said the session was originally scheduled for 9:30am but because many of the members were attending the opening of the two-day Economic Restoration Summit, they held the session at 8am.

"The delegation confirmed the two nominees and adjourned the session. There was no discussion about the nominees," said Benavente in an interview at the summit held at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-TMC-068

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 13, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE OFFICE OF THE 13TH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL - TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ LYNETTE I. HOFSCHNEIDER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-CRM-062

SUBMISSION: APRIL 15, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SAIPAN LAGOON USE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT IS AVAILABLE AT THE CRM FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING THE CRM AT (670) 664-8305, OR BY EMAILING *rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp*

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MS. RITA C. CHONG AT (670) 664-8315 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **APRIL 05, 2011.**

PUBLIC LAW 15-95 LOCAL PREFERENCE ACT, AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118, DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT.

/s/ RITA C. CHONG
DIRECTOR, CRM

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-SOF-067

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OPERATION AND REVITALIZATION OF LA FIESTA MALL"

THE SCOPE OF WORK WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 15, 2011 AT THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME MARCH 25, 2011**. QUESTIONS MAY BE EITHER SUBMITTED VIA FACSIMILE (670) 664-1115; MAIL OR PERSONAL DELIVERY AND MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE, P.O. BOX 5234 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950.

/s/ LARRISA C. LARSON
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ ELOY S. INOS
ACTING GOVERNOR

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB11-DOF/P&S-043

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 2011 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"SALES OF GOVERNMENT PERSONAL PROPERTIES"

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/s/ LARRISA C. LARSON
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-OHS-051

SUBMISSION: APRIL 18, 2011 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION SYSTEM FOR THE CNMI'S GUMA HUSTISIA (COURTHOUSE)"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY SITE VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE ON **MARCH 28, 2011 AT 9:30 A.M.** AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA (COURTHOUSE). **FAILURE TO ATTEND THE MANDATORY SITE VISIT SHALL RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF PROSPECTIVE OFFEROR.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
ACTING SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 23, 1999

Economist urges NMI to diversify

A Hawaii-based economist and financial analyst has cautioned the CNMI officials against diversifying the economy in areas that are not closely related to tourism because the Northern Marianas may find it hard to be competitive. According to David McClain, a professor of business and financial economics, College of Business Administration, University of Hawaii, health care improvement is one area which the Northern Marianas may pursue as CNMI officials are trying to market the island as a retirement haven for Japanese. Since the Northern Marianas has proven for many years that its competitive advantage is in tourism because of its pristine and scenic environment just like Hawaii, it would take so much effort for the CNMI to succeed in a field if it lacks the necessary resources.

Teno welcomes nephew's comeback plans

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he welcomed plans of his erstwhile political rival, former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, to reclaim the governorship in the 2001 general elections. A cautious Tenorio, who defeated the ex-governor in the 1997 general elections, said he was "pleased to hear" about the latter's intentions to run again for public office under a new political party. "No one can be denied to run for public office if they want to. I hope those who are running for office will serve the interest of the Commonwealth," the incumbent leader said. He declined to give further comments.

Mar. 23, 2000

OPA faults DOF computation of lottery revenues

The Office of the Public Auditor faulted the computation of government revenues generated from the lottery operations during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 1998 when earnings were reportedly understated. According to an audit report released yesterday, lotto operators failed to compute lottery revenues based on the terms of agreement of the Memorandum of Understanding reached with the CNMI government in 1994, 1997 and 1998. This failure resulted in the understating of government earnings from the gaming activity by $12,934 in the last three months of FY 1998. OPA said actual government revenues from lottery operations that period was $185,500.

Govt asked to help existing business first

Commonwealth Development Authority Board Chair John S. Tenorio and Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Lynn Knight yesterday said the CNMI government should focus its efforts in looking at ways on how to help the current businesses on island survive the downturn of the economy. Instead of embarking on trade missions to entice new investments, Mr. Tenorio and Ms. Knight said the government should consider providing tax breaks to companies on island. However, Mr. Tenorio clarified that such tax incentives should be given to businesses carrying out expansion programs. "It is time for the government to take a close look at companies that are already here because many businesses are already dying," said Mr. Tenorio.

Mar. 23, 2001

Carriers save $200K from CPA's incentive program

Major signatory airlines flying the Saipan route made an estimated $200,000 savings after the Commonwealth Ports Authority refunded almost 50 percent of the departure facility charge collected from them. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said CPA ordered a 50 percent off on departure facility charge since November last year and the discounted rate is part of the Airline Incentive Program. Signatory airlines usually pay the departure facility charges in advance and CPA has to credit it back to airline companies after CPA decided to extend the program's implementation, said Mr. Salas.

CNMI finds allies in US

In what appears to be a 360-degree turnaround from the situation a couple of years back, the Northern Marianas is now getting more supporters in the mainland United States. Yesterday, influential American daily *Washington Times* published a letter by George Mason University School of Law associate professor Peter Ferrara in its opinion page. Titled "A new protectionism," Professor Ferrara wrote that Sen. Frank Murkowski's bill seeking to extend federal immigration laws to the CNMI represents a new type of protectionism. The kind of protectionism Murkowski wages, according to him, involves disabling regulation and bureaucratic control rather than enforcing tariffs and quotas.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction two (2) boats on Friday, April 15, 2011. The boats may be inspected at the CDA Office parking lot in Gualo Rai.

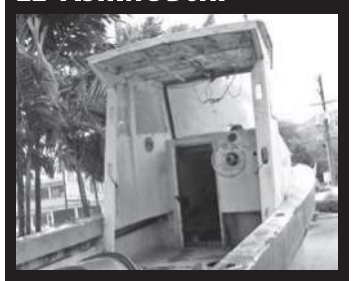
The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **CDA Conference Room, Second Floor on Friday, April 15, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.**
4. Full payment is due on the day of auction and before the boat(s) can be removed from the premises. Buyer is responsible for removing purchased item(s);
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card (MC and Visa only) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale.

/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

20' WHITE FIBERGLASS BOAT & TRAILER

Certificate No.: CM-932-CP
Year: 1994
Hull ID: OCP20736G394
Propulsion Use: OB
Engine 1: G03251444
Engine 2: G03212658
Engine Size: Twin
Fuel: Gas
Capacity: 8 persons

22' FISHING BOAT



Hull ID No.: XUE4949246
Engine: 115 HP outboard motor
(inoperable)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-11-018 (RE-BID)

Inspection and Integrity Testing of Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and Connected Pipeline – CUC Rota, CNMI – Revision # 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting revised competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced engineering and certified specialist firms for the Inspection and Integrity Testing of the Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and connected pipeline within the secondary containment, as included in this solicitation.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Workplan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 and # 41 Rota Power Plant Integrity Inspection Program.

The Power Plant in Rota is located in Song Song Village near the Rota Seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until March 28, 2011.**

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-018 (RE-BID),Inspection and Integrity Testing of the Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and connected pipeline, CUC Rota, Revision No.1" the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **April 7, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST) local time**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement &Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **April 1, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venu@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective bidders who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Invitation for Bid in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE

In accordance with Public Law 5-33, Section 4(b) (3) the Public Purpose Land Exchange Authorization Act, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into an exchange agreement to certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the exchange of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 5-33, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The purposed of the land exchange is to acquire a private properties that were landlocked. The private properties are described as Lot No. 1515-1, and Lot 1515-2 containing an area of 14,321 square meters, collectively situated in As Falipe, Saipan.

ii. The public lands to be exchange are described as Lot No. 081 A 01R/W, containing an area of 413 square meters, Lot No. 056 A 16R/W, containing an area of 338 square meters, and Lot No. 056 A 21R/W, containing an area of 1,247 square meters, Lot No. 056 A 23 containing an area of 11,918 square meters and Lot No. 056 A 30 containing an area of 370 square meters, more or less, located in Marpi and As Matuis, Saipan.

iii. The private properties are owned by Mr. Robert and Frances DLG. Naraja a resident of Saipan.

iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.

v. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before April 1, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN MA´ATULAIKAN TANO´ PUBLIKU

Sigun i Lai Publiku 5-33 nima amenda Seksiona 4 (b)(3), i Public Purpose Land Exchange Act, i Depattamenton i Tano' Publiku ma nana´i Notisia i intension-ña para e ma´atulaikan pumalu na tano´ publiku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islas Marianas siha. Todu manintiresåo na petsona siha, siña munna´hålom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen i propositu siha para i uma´atulaikan i tano´ publiku. Komu mås mapribeniyi ginen Lai Publiku 5-33, pettanesin infotmasion ni dinimånda na para u mapuplika.

i. I maproponen i ma´atulaikan i tano´ para uma´chule i tano´ private sa landlocked. i diskripsion I tineteka na tano´ komo Lot No.1515-1, kuatro mit ocho sento kuatro, potlumenus mas (4,804 square meters), yan Lot No. 1515-2 nuebi mit kinientos disisenti aria, potumenus mas (9,517 square meters), gaige giya As Falipe Saipan.

ii. I diskripsion i tano´ publiku Lot No 081 A 01R/W, kinensisite i aria (413 square meters), Lot No. 056 A 16R/W, kinensisite i aria (338 square meters), Lot No. 056 A 21R/W kinensisite i aria (1,247 square meters), Lot No. 056 A 23, kinensisite I aria (11,918 square meters) yan Lot No. 056 A 30 kinensisite I aria (370 square meters), potlumenus må, gaige giya Marpi yan As Matuis, Saipan.

iii. I dwennon i tano´ si Mr. Robert yan Frances DLG Naraja residenten Saipan.

iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma´atulaikan tano siha siña u machule´ gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano´ Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.

v. I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano´ Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi´i opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma´atulakan tano´ publiku antes osino gi dia April 1, 2011 gi Depattamenton Tano´.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL SIIWELIL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Alléghúl Toulap 5-33 Section 4 (b)(3), Bwulasiyool Ammwolil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe siiwel eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóóka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghighiir, aweewe, aingiingi reel pomwol siiwel yeel. Alléghú Toulap ye 5-3 Section 4 (b)(3) e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 1515-1 (4,804 square meters), Lot No. 1515-2 (9,517 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo As Falipe, Seipél. Tilighial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngáre óubwe ghuley fischey.

ii. Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot No. 081 A 01R/W (413 square meters), 056 A 16R/W (338 square meters), 056 A 21R/W (1,247 square meters), 056 A 23 (11,918 square meters), me Lot No. 056 A 30 (11,918 square meters), falúw ye, KKal nge elo Marpi me As Matuis, Seipél.

iii. Mr. Robert me Frances DLG. Naraja soll Saipan, yaar falúw kaa ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.

iv. Tilighial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building loll Tuturam, Seipel.

v. Alongal mángemáng me ngáre aiyegh nge ebne atotoolong llól atoll April 1, 2011, sángi rál e earougowow mellow News.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Nuclear power's future

As the news from Japan worsens, the anxiety level rises. Phrases like "radioactive release," "partial meltdown" and "damaged reactor" send chills up the spine.

The most important lesson to emerge from the tragedy in Japan is that safety must be the top priority in the operation of nuclear plants, always. There's no such thing as a foolproof system or disaster-proof construction. The crisis should serve as a wake-up call for the nuclear power industry and regulators around the world

A safety review of U.S. power plants, both current and planned, is needed. Congress should hold hearings that can inform the public about safety issues. But let's take a deep breath before leaping to declare a permanent moratorium on nuclear power plant expansion. Unless new forms of energy generation can be found relatively soon, the world will need more nuclear plants in the near future.

Nationally, there are 104 commercial nuclear power plants in the United States. They provide about 20 percent of the nation's electricity. For three decades, an all but officially declared moratorium has prevented the building of plants. However, a consensus had begun to emerge that new nuclear plants were the key to meeting the energy needs of the future. There's no mystery about why.

Based on existing technology, nuclear power has a critical role to play in devising a climate solution. It's a form of clean energy. Other clean sources such as solar and wind power—as desirable as these are—require significant new levels of investment and a hefty commitment of public funding before they can match the output of other large-scale generators of energy.

Energy-starved countries like China and India have ambitious plans to build their own networks of nuclear plants. On Wednesday, China's government announced that it is suspending plans for new nuclear power plants so that safety standards can be revised, and it ordered inspections of all existing facilities. That's a wise move, but it's only a yellow light, not a red light. Eventually, China may have no choice but to proceed cautiously with nuclear expansion.

According to the World Nuclear Association, an industry trade group, the globe's existing stock of 443 nuclear reactors could more than double in 15 years.

The terrible events in Japan are a warning about the need to plan for a nightmare scenario. Better engineering, appropriate placement (not on or near a fault line) and more back-up safety systems can reduce, but never eliminate, the risks and unanticipated vulnerability of nuclear plants.

But as horrifying as this episode is, it should not deter this country from developing nuclear power. Let's learn from Japan's experience and make the operation of existing and future plants as safe as possible.

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Libya: It's not our fight

By EDWARD N. LUTTWAK
Los Angeles Times

Edward N. Luttwak is a senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Once again the United States is bombing a Muslim country to liberate its people from their own sanguinary rulers. Once again we are told that innocent civilians are being massacred and that the United States must intervene as a matter of moral duty, in its capacity as a great and good nation. But in this case—even as part of a broader, U.N.-sanctioned coalition to enforce a no-fly zone—the U.S. should not have intervened at all.

No humanitarian appeal should ever be lightly dismissed, and indeed many Americans justifiably recall with deep regret the failure of the Clinton administration to intervene against the 1994 Rwandan genocide, when a few thousand lightly armed soldiers on the ground could have saved hundreds of thousands.

So why is Libya different? Why shouldn't the United States intervene there?

First, because it has oil and gas, and any U.S. military action will be seen by many people around the world as motivated exclusively by the urge to steal the country's resources. Absurd, of course, but the enemies of the United States will repeat that accusation, all too plausible for most people around the world, who cannot imagine that any government would be benevolent enough to expend blood and treasure to disinterestedly help foreigners, and foreigners of another religion to boot.

It is no use arguing that the military control of a territory and the ownership of its natural resources are very different things for any law-abiding occupier. That U.S. military forces made no attempt to seize, or even dutifully secure, Iraq's oil installations during or after the 2003 invasion is a fact known to few, and even when known it is dismissed as irrelevant, or as so much calculated deception. It is because the accusation is so widely believed that Iraqi political leaders have gone out of their way to negotiate oil contracts with non-U.S. companies, to demonstrate that they are not American puppets. (Shenhua Group, Sinochem, Unipec and China National Offshore Oil are all no doubt grateful to the United States for having given them access to Iraq's oil, even if they have not offered to contribute to the trillion-dollar cost of that intervention so far.) Whatever the United States does in Libya, it will only add to its undeserved but by now entrenched reputation as the predatory aggressor of our times.

The second reason Libya is different from Rwanda is its religion. Look to our experience in Afghanistan, for example. Imams all over Afghanistan routinely denounce the U.S. intervention as a disguised attack on Islam, as a means to opening the way to Christianity. That includes imams salaried by the U.S. taxpayer by way of the Afghan government, which actually disburses the funds.

In an added twist, Afghan religious leaders often explain that the Americans promote the rights of women in order to encourage their rebellion against fathers and husbands, to thus dishonor Afghan families and weaken their resistance to conversion. Again, because no ordinary Afghan would dream of traveling halfway around the world to help Americans, or indeed anyone not of his own religion, such accusations are almost universally believed. They explain the otherwise inexplicable. True, some Afghans still say that it was because of the so-far unfound oil, gas or gold that the Americans came, but nobody believes the benevolent explanation.

Perhaps a recent terrorist attack against U.S. servicemen best illustrates the phenomenon. Arid Uka, who killed two U.S. airmen and wounded two more at Frankfurt airport on March 2, was heard shouting "Allahu akbar" ("God is great") as he fired his 9-millimeter gun. He is from Kosovo, now emerging as Europe's first Muslim state as a result of the 1999 NATO air war against the territory's former Serbian overlords.

Many of Kosovo's inhabitants are duly grateful to the U.S. for their liberation. But there are imams preaching against the pernicious influence of the United States and the West in Kosovo—more loudly of late because of a headscarf ban in its schools. Although local Muslim leaders imposed the ban, with no U.S. involvement, the imams say otherwise, while also condemning U.S.-led invasions of Muslim lands.

Indeed, Uka's stated motivation for the shooting was a purported Internet video that showed U.S. troops raping Muslim women in Afghanistan. He was unable to retrieve any such video for the German police. None seemingly exists, but he no doubt heard about it in his local mosque.

It is unforgivable to repeat the same mistakes in Libya. Regardless of its good intentions, the United States will be depicted once again as predatory and anti-Muslim, generating more terrorism in due course. Even the much-praised resolution of the Arab League that calls for a no-flight zone warned against any "invasion" and ruled out any attack on Libyan air defenses—the signatories obviously did not mind if the (presumably American) patrolling pilots were thereby exposed to antiaircraft missiles.

The U.S. military ignored this, but cruise missiles and aerial bombs do not just destroy missiles, they also kill people, and there will soon be Hezbollah-style displays of dead children for al-Jazeera. Let the Arab League or the far larger Organization of the Islamic Conference with its 57 members, which possess first-line jet fighters and troops, mount a humanitarian intervention at their own cost in money and blood.

At least the United States would not be accused of attacking Islam once again.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Revisiting relationship

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The idea of revisiting our relationship with the federal government under a certain proposed legislation misses the point by a wide margin. The more appropriate agenda is self-reflection on where we've dropped the ball of leadership since 1978.

For instance, there was established since 33 years ago the Commission on Federal Laws. It is tasked to review issues (every 10 years) affecting CNMI-federal relationship. But this vehicle was dropped and was never revived.

But the vehicle to express our aspirations with the feds came through three years ago. We finally elected our first non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress. This office assumed the role of the Commission on Federal Laws. We also have direct working relationships with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and other departments and agencies of the federal government.

What led to the prevailing dysfunctional relationship with the feds? Isn't it our negligence to plan for the future of the CNMI? Didn't we opt to plan by eventualities rather than for the future of these islands? This, coupled with the culture of *mañana* was the perfect recipe for disaster. The culture of reluctance or complacency has led the CNMI into bankruptcy!

In 1993, I recall the CNMI declaring before Congress that grant funds for local government operations be terminated for ensuing fiscal years. This was premised on the CNMI's apparel industry raking in some $2.1 billion annually, in addition to millions more from tourism and other industries.

This gave us the courage to tell Uncle Sam with pride that such is our desire. Strange, though, that what's happening today isn't necessarily reflective of that view, is it? We're now pleading to use CIP funds for operations, still reluctant to acknowledge that we have found the enemy and the Enemy Is Us!

We've failed to plan, though we've had our constitutional government since 1978. We've been electing public officials whose duty is to bring the CNMI closer to socio-economic freedom. We thought we did but trusted that all is well and good when the CNMI had its plentiful days in locally raised revenues. We were picnicking even 'til dawn. Now, we are restlessly suffering from insomnia trying to figure where the next penny would come from.

Perhaps we were so inebriated or punch drunk by such sterling economic success as to grandly ignore follow-up plans to strengthen our economic foundation while at the pinnacle of success. We refused to engage in the thoughtful process of planning for our future. And we did nothing but mouth off whenever we royally failed to fulfill our responsibilities to strengthen self-government or our obligations toward governance. It's grand political show that doesn't absolve local leadership from its responsibilities to plan the future of the CNMI. Is complacency and bankruptcy part of leadership's plan?

Indeed, we hear (and I'm equally guilty of using the same) such grand excuse as the federal government being mandated by the Covenant Agreement to provide for a "progressively higher standard of living" for these isles. Uncle Sam put in his share—millions of dollars—for CIP and other necessities. He consistently brings in his army to assist our people after supertyphoons and allows them decent recovery or until they can get back on their feet.

The greater question is: Did we step forward to ensure that use of these funds is channeled toward building stronger economic foundation? Did we ask Uncle Sam for some relief versus stifling regulations governing use of these funds? If the answers to these queries are in the affirmative, then what went wrong that we're still bankrupt? Were we expecting everything to be handed us on a silver platter? Did we forget that self-government must come from within?

The Covenant negotiations started in 1972. I worked as an administrative assistant for the Marianas Delegation to the Congress of Micronesia. Part of my temporary assignment included helping in the negotiations at the old Saipan Municipal Council Building. As the negotiations drew to a close, I asked one of our negotiators to bring the issue of Law of the Sea (widely known as the 200-mile exclusive economic zone) to the table. The answer was a silent though very loud NO! There's fear that the issue would protract or derail successful conclusion of the talks.

Sovereignty was never an issue in the negotiations nor did anyone from our side raise any concerns about it. So this and the 200-mile EEZ were never brought to the table for fear of delay in the successful conclusion of the talks. Perhaps the two issues are foreign to the CNMI contingent, therefore the inability to understand the magnitude of the positive economic implications had they been brought to the table and negotiated successfully. Thus, it feels better bluffing our way through it than being accused of adolescency for throwing a monkey wrench on the back of negotiators. And so they were successfully shoved aside. Now we quiz how come they were never considered?

Lest we forget, U.S. sovereignty over the NMI isn't negotiable and not for as long as we're a politically subservient to the federal government. Nor is there a chance to change the Magnuson Act governing seabed and other resources beyond territorial waters. None of the coastal states or those at the Eastern Seaboard is in control of the 200-mile EEZ. It is federal purview and remains so today.

I recall a former deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce who advised the NMI in the late '70s to visit Alaska and explore how that state has dealt with fisheries development under the Magnuson Act. It is the closest state with fisheries programs that we could have used as a model for fisheries development. But we decided to doze off on the job once more singing, *que sera sera.*

Local control of immigration is no longer in our hands. It was taken over by the federal government after years of deaf and mute reactions from our side to right abuses of foreign workers. Soon local labor may also be gone too. The feds have moved in slowly to show local leadership how things are done within the confines of the law. After all, the CNMI is supposed to be a government of laws, politically subservient to our national government. And I thought we have our own Constitution patterned after the supreme law of our country!

What may have gone wrong in paradise are mostly self-inflicted, nurtured by our culture of reluctance or *mañana*. It inhibits our proactively stepping forward to begin helping and saving ourselves from ourselves. In the end, we refuse to swallow the painful reality of our inadequacies the direct result of our negligence in what has become a dystopia or place where nothing works. Now we want to go it alone as a sovereign island nation provided we keep Uncle Sam's dollar bills. It doesn't follow, even if you employ fuzzy logic.

We say one thing while doing the exact opposite. It illustrates that our desire and aspirations are grossly disoriented, lacking definition. The exercise of real self-government is still waiting for real leadership. And it begins, yes, with the indigenous people owning up to their responsibilities as citizens. I'm not prepared to acquiesce nor tacitly approve serious misgivings on the part of the federal government, but it remains our obligation to begin a functional relationship anew. Start today!

Letters to the Editor

A new beginning

I am grateful to Gov. Ben Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos for the tremendous trust and confidence placed upon me. Commissioner Sandy Tudela is a friend and colleague and I extend my gratitude to him for supporting my appointment and transition into DPS. Commissioner Tudela, whom I have known for many years, has built a wealth of knowledge as a career police officer spanning more than 20 years of public service. I will not hesitate to ask Commissioner Tudela for his advice and assistance, and wish him the best in the years to come. I have grown fond of the Department of Corrections. Together with the officers and staffs, we built a family that was cohesive and mission focused. It is my sincerest intention to build the same professional relationship at DPS with the assistance of all the officers and civilian staff. I accept the appointment and challenges ahead as DPS commissioner for the people of the Commonwealth. I accept the appointment on behalf of the police officers, firefighters, BMV, and all civilian personnel at DPS.

We will exercise compassion, impartiality, and justice in all our actions and will promote the same management values and mindset among all commanders, officers, and staffs. These expectations and approach are something that every officer and staff in the department can count on.

I ask all officers, firefighters, and staff to take pride in their profession and assist in the building of teamwork and organizational cohesiveness. No one will be left behind, or left idle; all will participate in bringing about positive changes and in building an organization deserving of the dedicated men and women in the department and the people of the Commonwealth. We have work to do ahead of us. Our expenditures exceed the limits of our fiscal resources. Extraordinary measures must be put in place to live within our means and still provide the services expected of the department.

We will listen, cooperate and participate in bringing about changes that are necessary, reasonable, and practical with the participation and input of the men and women of the department. This is the beginning of the process of restoring public confidence and trust. This is also the beginning of bringing everyone together to build a sense of belonging, value, and participation within this very essential department tasked with maintaining law and order and protecting life and property.

The department welcomes constructive criticisms and your prayers, too.

Ramon C. Mafnas
DPS Commissioner-appointee

Political suicide or political greatness

I see the casino bill is still on the fast track but can't get an engineer to drive this train down our throats. The fact that no one is in a hurry to author the bill speaks volumes; it would be political suicide for the author so no one is stepping up to that challenge. I really don't need to say anything anymore about casinos. I am more concerned about the alternatives to casinos and I'm not alone because many of the people I have talked to are asking the same question. Why can't they think of anything other than casinos?

Just as there is no author for the casino bill there is no author for a bill or initiative to fix Article 12, an amendment that almost *every* local and nonlocal *voter* agrees needs changing. But no one is willing to step up to the challenge because of the same fear of political suicide when Article 12 is really an opportunity for greatness if done properly! I feel very confident in saying the majority will support changing Article 12.

It is clear to me that politicians will have to face both of these issues (casinos and Article 12) and I learned a very long time ago to *only* fight the *good* battles, so if you do go down it was for a *good* cause. I'm saying this in hopes that one of our leaders will find the fortitude to lead in our efforts to fix Article 12 before I end up saying "I told you so" again. We need some *greatness* from the Hill and Article 12 represents the opportunity for greatness. I am just amazed to see that there are no takers for such an opportunity. As bad as we are doing and knowing the many potential positive effects to our economy in fixing Article 12, there should be all kinds of initiatives being offered to fix it.

It is really a simple task to fix Article 12 as the majority is already in favor of changes. The real challenge is finding the fortitude to face the minority. Will we see a politician fighting the bad battle for casinos or the good battle to change Article 12? It is time for our leaders on the Hill to make up their minds which battle they are going to fight because too much time has been wasted with the casino and it has only served to keep us from getting on track to get something accomplished.

It was mentioned in a letter that Article 12 *is not* the reason for our economic decline, which is true. *However*, Article 12 has been the biggest inhibitor to the growth and expansion of our economic base, preventing us from solidifying our economic foundation in multiple areas, which is the key to having a fully developed economy. The CNMI has never had a fully developed economy and the use of land is key to having a fully developed economy. There is a reason no other industries have developed in the CNMI over the past 30 years. So we can procrastinate as usual but sooner or later it will sink in that Article 12 is the epicenter of inhibitors to our economic growth and prosperity in the CNMI.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

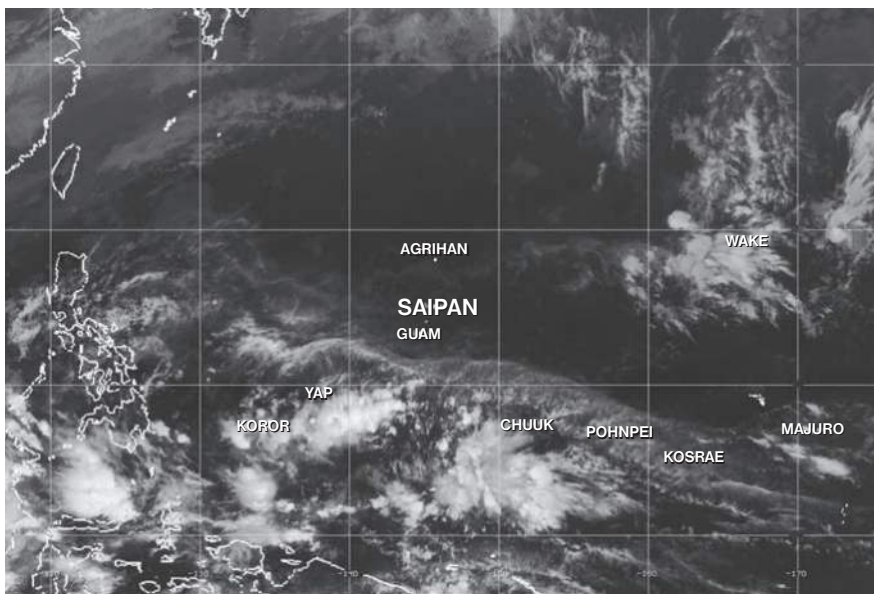
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼60
Beijing	Sunny	▲54	▼33
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼59
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼71
London	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼40
Los Angeles	Rain	▲58	▼48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼57
Miami	Sunny	▲84	▼63
New York	Ice	▲39	▼37
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲52	▼37
Paris	Sunny	▲64	▼41
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼38
Rome	Sunny	▲66	▼46
Salem	Showers	▲56	▼41
San Francisco	Rain	▲53	▼50
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼30
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼37
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲58	▼48

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N178E to Wake Island continuing westward to end near 18N151E. An upper-level trough extends southward from 25N170E to 15N170E. Patchy low clouds and showers are found along and up to 200 miles north of the shear line. Isolated thunderstorms are found along this boundary between 158E and 168E. This area includes Wake Island. A near-equatorial trough extends east-southeastward from 5N130E to EQ144E. Another trough southwest of Chuuk lifts northward from 1N147E to 7N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Koror and Yap but southwest of Chuuk between EQ and 10N west of a line from 10N148E to 4N154E to EQ154E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Kwajalein and near Majuro between 4N and 8N east of 167E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:07 PM	8:47 AM
Thursday	11:08 PM	9:42 AM
Friday		10:39 AM
Saturday	12:06 AM	11:36 AM
Sunday	12:06 AM	11:36 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1),Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3),Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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'Only interisland travel for medical referral extended'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health clarified yesterday that only a particular section of the newly implemented regulations for the medical referral program has been suspended until the end of fiscal year.

Medical referral services manager Ronald D. Sablan said yesterday that the rest of the new policy took effect on Feb. 1.

Sablan said that only Section 7.6 of the policy, which transfers the burden of medical referral costs from the Department of Public Health to the jurisdiction of the Rota and Tinian municipalities, is suspended until Sept. 30. That means interisland transportation costs of patients will remain the responsibility of DPH until the end of the fiscal year.

"Section 7.6 was extended for the remainder of fiscal year 2011 because the respective mayors' offices does not have the flexibility to reprogram funds to observe the financial requirements of this transfer responsibility. The rest of the adopted emergency amendments are in effect at this time," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said the whole purpose of the emergency amendments is to cut and control expenses to ensure the present and future viability of the medical referral program. He said delaying the implementation of the other sections will defeat that purpose.

Press secretary Angel Demapan earlier said that the medical referral program has been the government's largest expenditure over the years.

DPH spent $16.3 million from fiscal years 2006 through 2009 to refer medical cases to various medical facilities outside the Commonwealth. In fiscal year 2010, the government spent more than $7 million on medical referral.

The frail economy is forcing more and more people to drop their medical insurance, forcing the government to shoulder a bigger slice of medical expenses.

At the same time, because of dwindling resources, the government has failed to pay three travel companies—Wings Travel, Pacific Sky, and World Tour and Travel—for the tickets issued to patients who were referred to off-island hospitals and medical facilities.

These travel agencies have temporarily stopped processing the tickets of medical referral patients.

Sablan said that off-island referral remains suspended as of yesterday. "Yes, we are temporarily suspended by all three travel agencies," he said.

Sablan, however, refused to disclose how much the government owes these travel agencies at present, merely saying that, by implementing the new regulation, the government expects to save $1.8 million because it will stop providing subsistence allowances and will share some cost with the patients and their families.

New regulation

The new regulation indicated that for the transportation costs, patients are required to pay 100 percent of the airfare if their annual income is $50,000 or more while those earning $25,000 to $50,000 will pay 50 percent of the airfare. The other half will be shouldered by the program. Transportation costs will be covered by the program in full for patients with incomes below $25,000.

Designated family escorts will also pay 50 percent of the least expensive roundtrip air transportation to the destination selected by the patient.

"Our original analysis estimated an annual savings of about $1.8 million," said Sablan.

He assured, though, that DPH continues to respond to emergency cases.

"We have special arrangements for real emergency cases. No patient has been denied medical care and treatment even with our current financial situation. It has always been a priority for our government to make sure that our people be referred to an off-island provider if the medical specialty is not available in the CNMI," Sablan said.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

COUNSELOR APPRECIATION DAY

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated center, shares a light moment with rehabilitation counselors and advocates after signing a proclamation Monday declaring March 22, 2011 National Rehabilitation Counselor Appreciation Day. In the CNMI, some 200 individuals annually seek help from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's rehabilitation counselors for evaluation and training for appropriate trades and careers, among other things.

OIA to begin report on Guam infra needs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—This week, senior staff from Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta's Office of Insular Affairs will be in Guam to begin preparations for a report that would detail the infrastructure improvements needed to directly and indirectly support and sustain the military buildup.

The Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2011 provides for the Interior secretary to issue the report, assessing Guam's capital infrastructure needs as they relate to the military buildup.

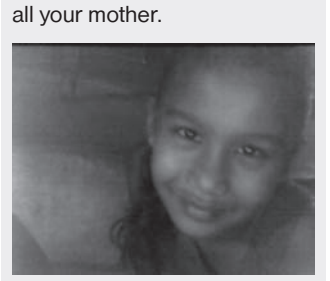
Kristen Oleyte, senior policy adviser, and Stephen Sander, director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, will be in Guam this week meeting with appropriate personnel from the Consolidated Commission on Utilities, members of Gov. Eddie Calvo's administration and other Guam agencies and legislators with authority and oversight over civilian infrastructure.

"Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo has been a strong advocate in protecting Guam's interest in Congress. The work we are beginning is a direct result of her effort in the passage of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act. Through her active commitment, our hope at Interior is to begin moving forward with a report that accordingly identifies Guam's local infrastructure needs. I hope the report will provide the Congress with a sense of both the needs on Guam and the priorities identified by Governor Calvo's Administration," said Babauta. ***(OIA)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A big, phat birthday shoutout to Tisha Jasmine Basa Magofna who is celebrating her birthday today, March 23, 2011! Happy birthday to you and may you have many more birthdays to come! Enjoy your very special day. Greetings come from your nephews and nieces, your sisters and brothers, and most of all your mother.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Trinidad Felisa Basa Magofna and may you have many more birthdays to come. We hope you enjoyed your very special day. Greetings come from your nephews and your nieces, your sisters and brothers, and, most important of all, your loving mother.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 11th birthday to Athena Jaycee "AJ" Seman Kaipat! May you have many more birthdays to come! We love you! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, RJ, JD, and Princess.

Guam community pays tribute to Coast Guard

GUAM—Coast Guard Sector Guam crewmembers joined with University of Guam students in celebration of partnership March 16, 2011.

Students and staff members from the University of Guam's basic design class unveiled a painted carabao statue as a tribute to the Coast Guard. The statue, located on the grounds of the Sector compound on Naval Base Guam, is painted in an island motif that represents the Coast Guard's missions, paying tribute to the Coast Guard's friendship with Guam and honoring fallen comrades.

Capt. Thomas M. Sparks, commanding officer of Sector Guam, spoke during the ceremony and formally recognized several key members involved in the creation of "Coastie," the carabao's given name.

Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Spratt, deck member stationed aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia*, a 225-foot buoy tender homeported in Apra Harbor, was recognized by Sparks for creating the design that was used to paint Coastie. Jennifer Ada, the artist, the Navy League, Jose Babauta, basic design class professor, and the students were all formally recognized and thanked during Spark's speech.

USCG

Coast Guard Sector Guam crewmembers, students, and staff members from the University of Guam's basic design class unveil a painted carabao statue as a tribute to the Coast Guard. The statue is located on the grounds of the Sector compound on Naval Base Guam.

The students who painted the statue signed their names on the statue's base. The Territory of Guam seal, University of Guam seal, Navy League logo, and the Coast Guard Emblem appear in various locations on the statue.

"This carabao stands as a symbol of partnership between the Coast Guard, the Navy League, University of Guam, and the island itself," said Sparks.

The design splits the carabao statue into a day and night side to depict the Coast Guard's 24-hour a day missions. On the daylight side, the cutter *Sequoia* maintains a buoy under a Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter. On the other side, a 110-foot patrol boat and a 25-foot small boat patrol during a night search and rescue mission with an HC-130 Hercules aircraft flying overhead. Both are numbered to depict Coast Guard aircraft lost recently, in honor of their fallen crews.

Coastie now joins Guam's other public works of art as a symbol of the Coast Guard's history and connection with the community. ***(USCG)***

Business

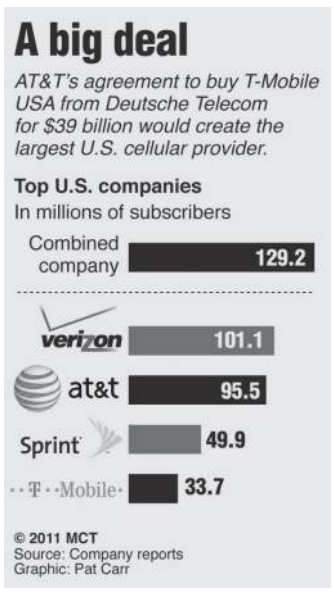
Deal to combine AT&T, T-Mobile raises questions

WASHINGTON (AP)—AT&T's surprise announcement that it plans to acquire T-Mobile USA will force federal regulators to confront a difficult antitrust question: Can American consumers get good wireless service at a fair price if they must choose between just two national companies?

That debate will be at the center of the government review of the $39 billion cash-and-stock deal announced Sunday. If approved, the purchase would catapult AT&T past Verizon Wireless to become the nation's largest cellphone service provider.

The deal would combine AT&T Inc., the nation's second-largest wireless carrier, with T-Mobile USA, the fourth-largest, which is now owned by Germany's Deutsche Telekom AG. And it could pave the way for Verizon to go after Sprint Nextel Corp., which would be a distant No. 3 and the only remaining national provider.

None of the smaller U.S. carriers, including Leap Wireless, Metro PCS and U.S. Cellular, has complete nationwide coverage.



Officials at the Justice Department and the Federal Communications Commission could spend a year or more scrutinizing the deal before deciding whether to block it or allow it to proceed with substantial conditions attached.

"I am not convinced that this deal is unthinkable," said Jeffrey Silva, an analyst with Global Medley Advisors. "But it's a very, very heavy lift."

Regulators will conduct a thorough market-by-market analysis to determine how many wireless choices consumers would have in communities across the country. And even if they allow the deal to go through, government officials would probably require the combined company to sell off assets—including wireless spectrum, cell towers and customers—in particular markets that are too concentrated.

The bigger question facing federal officials is whether the enormous cost of building a nationwide wireless network means that a market dominated by only two companies is the best they can hope for.

And if that's the case, what kinds of merger conditions should the government impose on AT&T to prevent it from abusing its power?

Gas, food prices double whammy for rural families

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—Twice a week, Myriam Garcia puts snow chains on her 22-year-old gas guzzler and noses two miles down the hill from her trailer in rural western Montana. Then, instead of turning south and driving the 45 miles to Helena for grocery shopping like she used to, she parks on the side of the road and waits for a friend or neighbor heading into town to give her a lift.

In Helena, Jackie Merenz loads her beat-up SUV with juice boxes, graham crackers and apple sauce she bought at Walmart for her 6-year-old daughter's birthday party. The 60-mile round trip she makes twice a week for groceries hits her wallet hard—the food stamps don't go far, gas prices are skyrocketing and to top it off, her husband had to stop working after getting injured.

Living out in Montana's Big Sky Country often means driving long distances for the basic necessities, and people on tight budgets like Garcia, 49, and Merenz, 26, have long been creative in making ends meet.

But with food prices up nearly 4 percent last month—the biggest leap in 36 years—and the national average for a gallon of gas at a whopping $3.57, this economic double-whammy is stretching family budgets to the breaking point.

"It took me $50 to fill up my car yesterday. And it will be gone in three days, probably," Merenz said. "We already live in HUD housing, we're already on Medicaid, we already have food stamps—and we still struggle."

Merenz and her husband Richard moved to a small house in Boulder, Mont., two years ago after he had sinus surgery and the doctor told him the Oklahoma humidity was not good for him. He got a job at the Montana Developmental Center, which caters to people with developmental disabilities and behavioral problems.

But then in December, a patient broke his nose, knocking Richard Merenz out of work and leaving him in need of two operations. It couldn't have come at a worse time, with the rising prices of milk and baby food for their three children ages 6, 2 and 8 months.

"Right now, we're just kind of winging it," Jackie Merenz said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian markets higher as Japanese stocks jump

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian shares were mostly higher in early trading Tuesday, with stocks in Japan clawing back some of the losses inflicted after a massive earthquake struck the country's industrial northeast less than two weeks ago. The benchmark Nikkei 225 in Tokyo rose 2.9 percent, or 270.74 points, to 9,477.49. Sentiment was buoyed by signs that the situation at a damaged nuclear complex was stabilizing. On March 11, a powerful earthquake unleashed a towering tsunami that slammed into the plant, causing a major malfunctions and radiation leaks. Japan's big three auto manufacturers—Toyota, Honda and Nissan—all posted gains amid expectations their operations would slowly ramp up this week after being halted by the quake.

Citi resumes dividend, will do reverse stock split

NEW YORK (AP)—Citigroup Inc., one of the worst-hit banks during the financial crisis, is taking more steps to get back in the good graces of shareholders. The bank will reinstate a quarterly dividend, albeit just a penny per share, and reduce the amount of shares it has outstanding. This second maneuver, called a "reverse stock split," will lift the company's stock price and allow more institutional investors to own it. Many large investors like pension funds and mutual funds are barred from owning stocks that trade below $5, which has been the case with Citi since early 2009. Under Citi's plan announced Monday, every 10 shares of its stock will be exchanged for 1 new share as of May 6.

Calif. panel weighs nuclear safety after quake

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—State lawmakers called on California utilities Monday to delay efforts to relicense nuclear power plants until the companies complete detailed seismic maps to get a true picture of the risks posed by earthquakes and tsunamis. State senators raised sharp questions about whether California's nuclear plants can withstand a major natural disaster such as the one on March 11 that has left Japan scrambling to control radiation coming from some of its reactors. Lawmakers also questioned whether the utilities have been dragging their feet on conducting three-dimensional seismic studies called for in a 2008 state report to assess the risks posed by offshore faults.

Nation

Missing Virginia teacher's body located in Japan

AP

In this July 17, 2010 photo provided the Anderson family, Taylor Anderson, right, poses with one of her students in Ishinomaki, Japan, where she taught English.

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A Virginia couple is mourning the death of their daughter after learning that her body was found in disaster-ravaged Japan, where she had been teaching English.

Taylor Anderson, 24, could be the first known American victim in the Japan disaster as authorities continue the daunting task of finding and identifying almost 13,000 people believed to be missing.

Anderson's family said in a statement that the U.S. Embassy in Japan called them Monday to tell them she was found in Ishinomaki, a city about 240 miles (390 kilometers) north of Tokyo.

Officials with U.S. Embassy in Japan and the State Department could not immediately confirm whether she was the first known U.S. victim in Japan. Another 25-year-old man is presumed dead after being swept into the ocean March 11 by a swell from the tsunami on the northern California coast.

"We would like to thank all those whose prayers and support have carried us through this crisis," said Andy and Jean Anderson, who live in Chesterfield County south of Richmond. "Please continue to pray for all who remain missing and for the people of Japan. We ask that that you respect our privacy during this hard time."

Jean Anderson said her daughter was last seen after the earthquake riding her bike away from an Ishinomaki elementary school after making sure parents picked up their children. A tsunami struck shortly after the earthquake, completely wiping out homes and other structures.

Friends and relatives used Facebook and other social networks to spread the word about the search for Taylor. Officials first told the family last Tuesday that their daughter had been located, but the Andersons learned that night that the information was incorrect.

Texas man gets first full face transplant in US

BOSTON (AP)—A Texas construction worker horribly disfigured in a power line accident has undergone the nation's first full face transplant in hopes of smiling again and feeling kisses from his 3-year-old daughter.

Dallas Wiens, 25, received a new nose, lips, skin, muscle and nerves from an unidentified dead person in an operation paid for by the U.S. military, which wants to use what is learned to help soldiers with severe facial wounds.

Wiens will not resemble "either what he used to be or the donor," but something in between, said plastic surgeon Dr. Bohdan Pomahac). "The tissues are really molded on a new person."

Pomahac led a team of more than 30 doctors, nurses and other staff at Brigham and Women's Hospital during the 15-hour operation last week. Wiens was listed in good condition at the Boston hospital on Monday. He did not appear at a news conference with the surgeon.

The Fort Worth man's features were all but burned away and he was left blind after hitting a power line while painting a church in November 2008. The transplant was not able to restore his sight, and some nerves were so badly damaged from his injury that he will probably have only partial sensation on his left cheek and left forehead, the surgeon said.

"When I saw Dallas for the first time I was worried that there may not be much we could do," said Pomahac, (pronounced POE-muh-hawk).

Wiens (pronounced WEENS) has been able to talk to his family on the phone, said his grandfather, Del Peterson, who attended the news conference Monday.

After the accident, Wiens said "he could choose to get bitter or he could choose to get better. His choice was to get better. Thank God today he's better," Peterson said.

In an Associated Press story and a YouTube video last fall, Wiens spoke poignantly about why he wanted a transplant and how he wanted to smile again and feel kisses from his daughter, Scarlette, who turns 4 next month. Face transplants give horribly disfigured people hope of an option other than "looking in the mirror and hating what they see," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

US demanding gay rights support at UN body

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration will introduce its first statement calling for the United Nations' top human rights body to combat discrimination against gays and lesbians around the world, completing a U.S. reversal from years of ambiguity on the subject during the presidency of George W. Bush. The U.S. declaration will be made Tuesday at the Geneva-based Human Rights Council and has the support of more than 80 countries. Although it is not in the form of binding resolution, the American push for U.N. action has helped win over a handful of new countries to the cause. A resolution could be brought to a vote later this year.

Bus rolls over on NH highway; at least 17 hurt

LITTLETON, N.H. (AP)—Authorities say a tour bus headed from Canada to New Jersey with 25 people aboard rolled over in New Hampshire after the driver lost control, and at least 17 were injured. Firefighters says none of the injuries was life-threatening in the accident Monday night in Littleton, near the Vermont border. Fire chief Joe Mercieri says the passengers were Korean citizens touring the U.S. and Canada. Light snow had fallen in the area, bringing with it intermittent fog.

Prosecutor: Woman killed co-worker after fight

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP)—An employee at an upscale Maryland yoga clothing shop is accused of killing a co-worker who found suspected stolen merchandise in her bag, then trying to conceal the crime by tying herself up and blaming the attack on two masked men. Brittany Norwood was ordered held without bond Monday on a charge of first-degree murder after Montgomery County State's Attorney John McCarthy described the slaying.

Asia

PH lawmakers impeach anti-graft official

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine lawmakers impeached the country's chief anti-corruption investigator Tuesday in a move that could clear the way to prosecute the country's former president.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez has been accused of failing to investigate allegations against former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, top generals and other officials for alleged graft in a nation long gripped by crushing poverty.

After a lengthy debate, 212 lawmakers from the powerful House of Representatives voted to impeach Gutierrez.

Gutierrez

Ruling coalition allies of President Benigno Aquino III broke into applause and raised their fists as the votes were announced after the nationally televised session, which lasted into the early hours of Tuesday.

Arroyo, now a House member, led 46 lawmakers in voting against the impeachment. The former president, looking dejected, walked alone out of the flag-draped plenary hall, once the bedrock of her power.

After her impeachment in the lower House, Gutierrez will now be tried in the 23-member Senate, which will act as a court when it reopens in May following a monthlong break.

"If we take out the ombudsman, then the way is clear for an even fight to prosecute Arroyo," said Risa Hontiveros, an Aquino ally who was among those who filed impeachment complaints against Gutierrez.

The 258-strong lower chamber, which consists mainly of local millionaires and scions of political dynasties, has long been considered a bastion of the country's corrupt and chaotic politics.

"There are only a few moments when we can be proud to be members of this House," said left-wing Rep. Teodoro Casino. "This is one of them."

Corruption, long entrenched in Philippine society, is a politically explosive issue that set off nonviolent "people power" revolts that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and popular leader Joseph Estrada 15 years later. It has also sparked several insurrections by disgruntled troops in the last quarter of a century.

Gutierrez, who was justice secretary during Arroyo's presidency, was accused by several left-wing activists and complainants of betraying public trust when she allegedly mishandled cases and failed to go after Arroyo, Arroyo's husband, top generals and other officials for alleged graft.

Gutierrez denied the allegations and made an unsuccessful bid to prod the Supreme Court to stop the House impeachment proceedings.

In one of several allegations, Arroyo, her husband and a former elections chief were accused of benefiting from huge kickbacks from a $330 million Philippine government deal with China's ZTE Corp. to set up a nationwide broadband network. Arroyo canceled the deal in 2007, and all three strongly denied any wrongdoing. ZTE denied bribing any official.

No quick fix seen at Japan's nuclear plant

FUKUSHIMA, Japan (AP)—Officials raced Monday to restore electricity to Japan's leaking nuclear plant, but getting the power flowing will hardly be the end of their battle: With its mangled machinery and partly melted reactor cores, bringing the complex under control is a monstrous job.

Restoring the power to all six units at the tsunami-damaged complex is key, because it will, in theory, power up the maze of motors, valves and switches that help deliver cooling water to the overheated reactor cores and spent fuel pools that are leaking radiation.

Ideally, officials believe it should only take a day to get the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear under control once the cooling system is up and running. In reality, the effort to end the crisis is likely to take weeks.

■ ■ ■

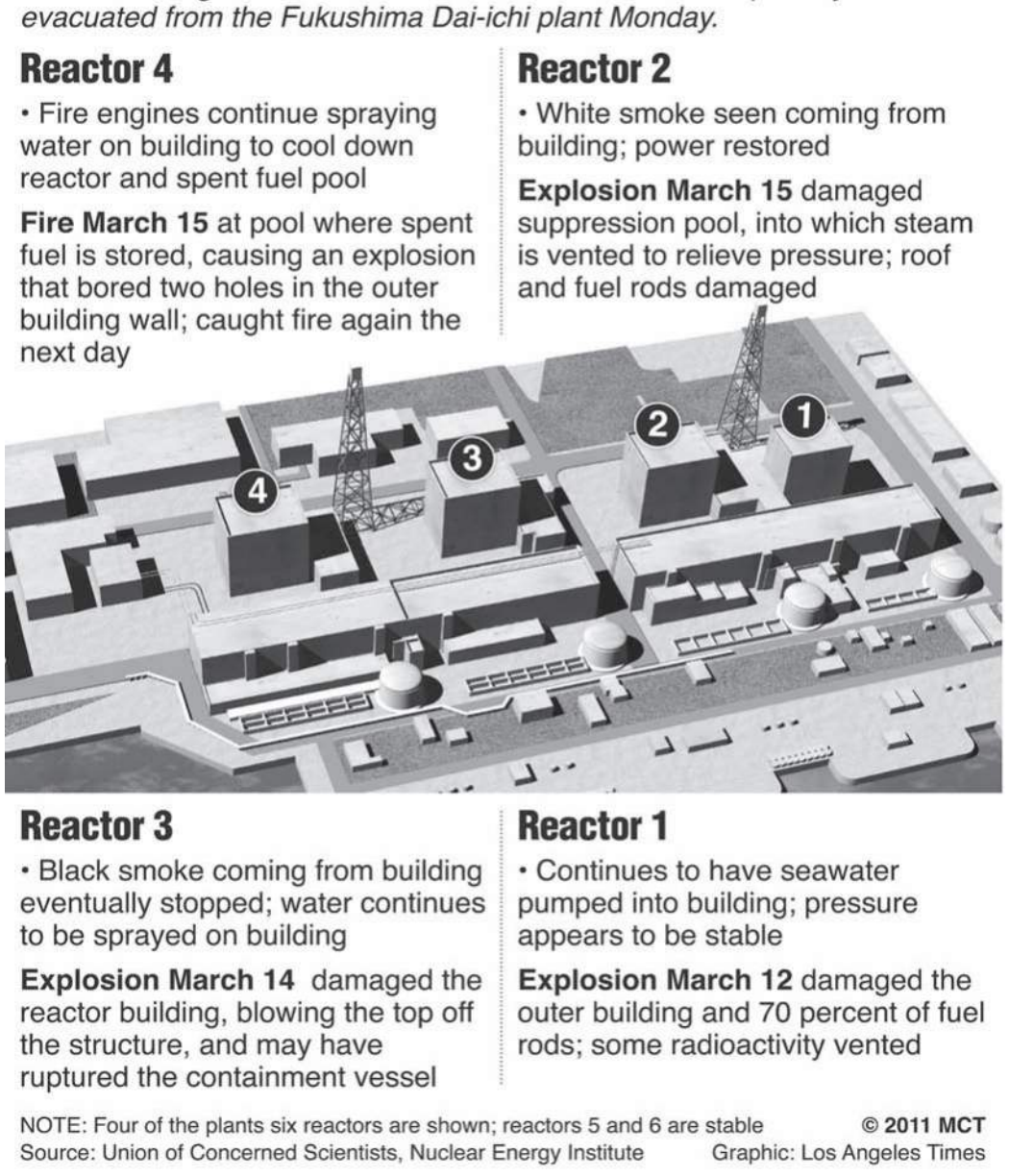
TOKYO (AP)—Japan's police agency says more than 8,900 people are dead after an earthquake and tsunami. Another 12,600 are missing.

Those tallies are likely to overlap, but police officials estimate that the final figure will likely exceed 18,000 deaths.

A police spokesman from one of the of the hardest-hit prefectures, Miyagi, estimates that the deaths will top 15,000 in that region alone. Police in other devastated areas declined to estimate eventual tolls, but said the confirmed deaths in their areas already number nearly 3,400.

The National Police Agency said the overall number of bodies collected so far stood at 8,928, while 12,664 people have been listed as missing.

■ ■ ■


Reactor update
Smoke coming from two reactors caused workers to temporarily be evacuated from the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant Monday.
Reactor 4
• Fire engines continue spraying water on building to cool down reactor and spent fuel pool
Fire March 15 at pool where spent fuel is stored, causing an explosion that bored two holes in the outer building wall; caught fire again the next day
Reactor 2
• White smoke seen coming from building; power restored
Explosion March 15 damaged suppression pool, into which steam is vented to relieve pressure; roof and fuel rods damaged
4
3
2
1
Reactor 3
• Black smoke coming from building eventually stopped; water continues to be sprayed on building
Explosion March 14 damaged the reactor building, blowing the top off the structure, and may have ruptured the containment vessel
Reactor 1
• Continues to have seawater pumped into building; pressure appears to be stable
Explosion March 12 damaged the outer building and 70 percent of fuel rods; some radioactivity vented
NOTE: Four of the plants six reactors are shown; reactors 5 and 6 are stable
Source: Union of Concerned Scientists, Nuclear Energy Institute
© 2011 MCT
Graphic: Los Angeles Times

Late Monday night, the deputy director general of Japan's nuclear safety body suggested to reporters why there is so much uncertainty about when the job will be finished.

"We have experienced a very huge disaster that has caused very large damage at a nuclear power generation plant on a scale that we had not expected," said Hidehiko Nishiyama of the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency.

The nuclear plant's cooling systems were wrecked by the massive earthquake and tsunami that devastated northeastern Japan on March 11. Since then, conditions at the plant have been volatile; a plume of smoke rose from two reactor units Monday, prompting workers to evacuate.

China takes hard line on activists, many missing

BEIJING (AP)—The last time the prominent Chinese lawyer Jiang Tianyong was seen or heard from, he was visiting his brother in a Beijing suburb. Police grabbed him and threw him into a waiting van, pushing aside his elderly mother who had clung on to the vehicle.

Jiang is among dozens of well-known lawyers and activists across China who have vanished, been interrogated or criminally detained for subversion in recent weeks, a crackdown that human rights groups say is on a scale and intensity not seen in many years.

Activists say China's massive security apparatus is using the government's anxiety over possible Middle East-inspired protests as a pretext for the crackdown.

"None of them will tell me anything about why he was taken away or where he has been taken to," Jiang's wife Jin Bianling said Monday. She said that after her husband's disappearance last month, a Beijing police officer told her verbally that "the case was being handled," meaning he was under investigation. But her repeated efforts to get more details from police have been fruitless.

More than 100 people have been questioned or followed by police or placed under house arrest, the Hong Kong-based Chinese Human Rights Defenders, or CHRD, said in a recent statement. It said Jiang and others who have disappeared for weeks were at risk of being tortured to extract confessions.

Human Rights Watch senior Asia researcher Nicholas Bequelin said the crackdown is even more serious than the one in December when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to a jailed Chinese dissident, Liu Xiaobo. He said it is also more extensive than when police questioned and detained activists involved in signing Charter 08, a manifesto for peaceful democratic reform that Liu co-authored, in 2008.

"There is a sense that the authorities want to put an end to the kind of open defiance of the government by rights activists, people who have been fairly active on Twitter and other social networks who were allowed for a couple of years to do that," Bequelin said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

52 feared dead in Pakistan coal mine explosion

SORANGE, Pakistan (AP)—Rescuers used shovels and bare hands Monday to dig out miners buried after a gas explosion deep in a coal mine in southwestern Pakistan, lining up wooden caskets to await the bodies from an accident that left 52 feared dead. More than 200 people stood outside the mine waiting to help or hear news from the search, but since the accident Sunday only bodies—27 of them—have been recovered. "We have yet to dig out and search the remaining two wings, but there is zero percent chance we can get anybody alive," said government mine inspector Iftikhar Ahmed.

Gunmen kill 11 road workers in southwest Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A security official says gunmen have attacked a camp for road construction workers in an area of southwestern Pakistan where separatist rebels are active, killing 11 people. Azittalah said the attack late Monday took place close to the port town of Gwadar in Baluchistan province. Azittalah, who heads a tribal security force, says four attackers hit the camp before fleeing on motorbikes.

SKorea agrees on volcano talks with NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has accepted North Korea's proposal to hold talks on conducting joint research on volcanic activity at the North's highest mountain. North Korea offered last week to meet and discuss joint studies, field surveys and academic forums on volcanic activities at Mount Paektu. South Korea's Unification Ministry said in a statement Tuesday that it has agreed on the need to cooperate on the matters of volcanic activities on the mountain.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Yemen leader loses more of his eroding power base

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A top military commander and at least 18 other senior officers defected Monday to the opposition movement demanding the ouster of Yemen's embattled president, depriving the U.S.-allied ruler of most of his power base. The looming collapse of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime throws into doubt the American campaign against a major al-Qaida wing that plotted attacks in the United States. Monday's defections led to rival tanks being deployed in the streets of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, creating a potentially explosive situation and prompting Saleh's defense minister, Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, to announce the military remained loyal to the longtime leader.

16 dead in plane crash in Republic of Congo

BRAZZAVILLE, Republic of Congo (AP)—At least 16 people were killed when a cargo plane crashed Monday into a densely populated Republic of Congo neighborhood, according to witnesses and a cameraman who captured the plane's fall on video. The Antonov 32—owned by private company Trans Air Congo (TAC)—crashed in the Mvoumvou area of Pointe-Noire, the country's economic capital, burying several houses in debris. Marc Ibata Ngassaki, a cameraman for state-owned television, said the pilot was able to get of the cockpit before the plane came to a rest.

Buoyed by strikes, Libya rebels try to advance

ZWITINA, Libya (AP)—Libya's rebels scrambled to try to exploit international strikes on Moammar Gadhafi's forces and go on the offensive, as some of the opposition's ragtag citizen-fighters charged ahead to fight troops besieging a rebel city Monday. But the rebellion's more organized military units were still not ready, and the opposition disarray underscored U.S. warnings that a long stalemate could emerge.

The air campaign by U.S. and European militaries has unquestionably rearranged the map in Libya and rescued rebels from the immediate threat they faced only days ago of being crushed under a powerful advance by Gadhafi's forces. The first round of airstrikes smashed a column of regime tanks that had been moving on the rebel capital of Benghazi in the east.

■ ■ ■

AP

A Libyan rebel arrives to the frontline of the outskirts of the city of Ajdabiya, south of Benghazi, eastern Libya, Monday, March 21, 2011.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council on Monday rejected a Libyan request for an emergency meeting to halt what it called "military aggression" by France and the United States, saying it would wait for a briefing Thursday from the secretary-general.

Council members held closed-door discussions in response to a letter dated Saturday from Libyan Foreign Minister Musa Kousa who claimed that "an external conspiracy was targeting ... (Libya) and its unity and territorial integrity."

According to the letter, obtained by The Associated Press, Kousa accused France and the U.S. of bombing "several civilian sites" in violation of the U.N. Charter and called for "an emergency meeting in order to halt this aggression."

The Security Council late Thursday adopted a resolution authorizing military action to protect civilians from attacks by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's forces and imposed a no-fly zone over the country. On Saturday, U.S., French and British forces launched airstrikes against Libyan air defenses, tanks, armored personnel carriers and other military hardware.

■ ■ ■

Monday night, Libyan state TV said a new round of strikes had begun in the capital, Tripoli, marking the third night of bombardment. But while the airstrikes can stop Gadhafi's troops from attacking rebel cities—in line with the U.N. mandate to protect civilians—the United States, at least, appeared deeply reluctant to go beyond that toward actively helping the rebel cause to oust the Libyan leader.

President Barack Obama said Monday that "it is U.S. policy that Gadhafi has to go." But, he said, the international air campaign has a more limited goal, to protect civilians.

"Our military action is in support of an international mandate from the Security Council that specifically focuses on the humanitarian threat posed by Col. Gadhafi to his people. Not only was he carrying out murders of civilians but he threatened more," the president said on a visit to Chile.

In Washington, the American general running the assault said there is no attempt to provide air cover for rebel operations. Gen. Carter Ham said Gadhafi might cling to power once the bombardment finishes, setting up a stalemate between his side and the rebels, with allied nations enforcing a no-fly zone to ensure he cannot attack civilians.

Henri Guaino, a top adviser to the French president, said the allied effort would last "a while yet."

Among the rebels, as well, there was a realization that fighting could be drawn out. Mohammed Abdul-Mullah, a 38-year-old civil engineer from Benghazi who was fighting with the rebel force, said government troops stopped all resistance after the international campaign began.

"The balance has changed a lot," he said. "But pro-Gadhafi forces are still strong. They are a professional military and they have good equipment. Ninety percent of us rebels are civilians, while Gadhafi's people are professional fighters."

Disorganization among the rebels could also hamper their attempts to exploit the turn of events. Since the uprising began, the opposition has been made up of disparate groups even as it took control of the entire east of the country.

Regular citizens—residents of the "liberated" areas—took up arms and formed a ragtag, highly enthusiastic but highly undisciplined force that in the past weeks has charged ahead to fight Gadhafi forces, only to be beaten back by superior firepower. Regular army units that joined the rebellion have proven stronger, more organized fighters, but only a few units have joined the battles while many have stayed behind as officers struggle to get together often antiquated, limited equipment and form a coordinated force.

Meanwhile, a "political leadership" has formed, made up of former members of Gadhafi's regime who defected along with prominent local figures in the east, such as lawyers and doctors. The impromptu nature of their leadership has left some in the West—particularly in the United States—unclear on who the rebels are that the international campaign is protecting.

The disarray among the opposition was on display on Monday.

With Benghazi relieved, several hundred of the "citizen fighters" barreled to the west, vowing to break a siege on the city of Ajdabiya by Gadhafi forces, which have been pounding a rebel force holed up inside the city since before the allied air campaign began. The fighters pushed without resistance down the highway from Benghazi—littered with the burned out husks of Gadhafi's tanks and armored personnel carriers hit in the airstrikes—until they reached the outskirts of Ajdabiya.

At defiant march, Syrians shout 'No more fear!'

DARAA, Syria (AP)—Syrians chanting "No more fear!" held a defiant march Monday after a deadly government crackdown failed to quash three days of mass protests in a southern city—an extraordinary outpouring in a country that is known for brutally suppressing dissent.

Riot police armed with clubs chased the small group away without casualties, but traces of earlier, larger demonstrations were everywhere: burned-out and looted government buildings, a dozen torched vehicles, an office of the ruling Baath party with its windows knocked out. Protesters also burned an office of the telecommunications company Syriatel, which is owned in part by the president's cousin.

The unrest in the city of Daraa started Friday after security troops fired at protesters, killing five people. Over the next two days, two more people died and authorities sealed the city, allowing people out but not in, as thousands of enraged protesters set fire to government buildings and demonstrated around the city.

Among the victims was 11-year-old Mundhir Masalmi, who died Monday after suffering tear gas inhalation a day earlier, an activist told The Associated Press. The activist asked that his name not be used for fear of reprisals.

U.S. National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor complained Monday that reports indicate the Syrian government "has used disproportionate force against civilians, and in particular against demonstrators and mourners in Daraa."

Human Rights Watch said in a statement that Syria should "cease use of live fire and other excessive force against protesters." On Monday, an Associated Press team was allowed into Daraa, accompanied by two government minders who kept them away from protesters and would not allow photographs of demonstrations. Army checkpoints circled the city and plainclothes officers were deployed in key areas.

The military tightened security around the old part of the city that witnessed much of the violence. Soldiers were stopping cars trying to go to the old part, checking identity cards and searching vehicles to make sure no one was carrying weapons. The minders prevented the AP team from going to the old quarter.

Lawyer Samir Kafri told the AP that criminal records were destroyed as people ransacked and burned the two-story Palace of Justice, which houses a criminal court and a police station. Every room in the building was burned, and more than 20 computers were stolen, he said.

About a dozen lawyers who gathered outside the building said the attack on the courthouse appeared to be well organized, as the attackers managed to destroy all files related to crimes such as drugs and arms dealings.

Among the buildings set on fire were the offices of the anti-drug department, about 200 yards (meters) from the court.

Municipal workers hosed down charred courtrooms covered in soot and ash, and security officers hung Syrian flags outside broken, scorched windows.

At the entrance of the city, the bottom of a giant picture of President Bashar Assad was torn.

The violence in Daraa has fast become a major challenge for Assad, who has tried to contain the situation by freeing detainees and promising to fire officials responsible for the violence.

Many residents who spoke to the AP blamed what they called troublemakers who took advantage of the protests to loot and set state buildings on fire.

But a man approached a reporter in the city center and said "all the troubles in the city are because of the corrupt governor."

One human rights activist said pro-democracy demonstrations spread Monday to the towns of Jasim and Inkhil, near Daraa, where thousands of people demonstrated to demand reforms.

Syria, a predominantly Sunni country ruled by minority Alawites, has a history of suppressing dissent. Assad's father and predecessor, Hafez, crushed a Muslim fundamentalist uprising in the city of Hama 1982, killing thousands.

Hilal Khashan, a political science professor at the American University of Beirut, said he does not see that what is happening in Syria is similar to those of Arab states, because Syria has a history in which riots don't spread to other cities. "In 1982, clashes were in Hama and did not spread," he said.

Khashan said unlike Daraa, where thousands have protested, only few hundreds marched in other cities.

A city of about 300,000 near the border with Jordan, Daraa has been relatively peaceful up to now, although it is suffering sustained economic effects from a years-long drought.

Khashan said protests are happening in Daraa because the province is far from Damascus, and this might have made people think that "change is possible."

Prolonged disturbances in Syria would be a major expansion of the unrest tearing through the Arab world for more than a month after pro-democracy uprisings that overthrew the autocratic leaders of Tunisia and Egypt.

Focus

AP

In this photo taken Feb. 22, 2011, a herd of wild elephants stand near water inside Kaziranga National Park, in Kaziranga, some 240 kilometers (150 miles) from Gauhati, India.

Last stand of the Asian elephant

By DENIS D. GRAY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JIA GABHARU, India (AP)—Every night when the rice is ripening in their fields, the young men climb into watchtowers to peer anxiously toward the Himalayan foothills from which the gray giants emerge.

Before them, a 5-kilometer (3-mile), high-voltage fence provides dubious defense against a crafty, brainy enemy. To their rear, patrols are mounted from settlements ringed by trenches and armed with spears, torches, stinging smoke bombs and sometimes guns and poison.

Here, in India's northeast state of Assam, is one of the hottest fronts of a heart-rending, escalating conflict. It is waged daily in villages, fields and plantations of 13 countries across Asia where forests and grasslands continue to shrink, igniting a turf war between one-time friends: land-hungry man and a simply hungry Elephas maximus, the Asian elephant.

The elephant's survival is at best uncertain.

In India and Sri Lanka, where the struggle is most intense, more than 400 elephants and 250 humans are killed each year. Deaths on both sides occur frequently in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and elsewhere. Sharks, by contrast, kill fewer than half a dozen swimmers a year worldwide.

Although the age-old bonds between human and elephant are yet to be totally severed, some angry villagers electrocute the animals with high tension wires or fell them with rifles, poison-tipped arrows and homemade rice liquor, an elephant favorite, laced with insecticides.

Humans, often poor rural dwellers, suffer no less.

In the village of Galighat in eastern Assam, accessible only by boat and foot, a rogue male elephant recently killed five residents in little more than a month, wrecking six houses in nighttime strikes, decapitating scores of banana trees and pilfering granaries.

The latest victim was Phulania Dutta, whose skull bones were still strewn on the earth near her obliterated home where eyewitnesses described how two nights earlier the elephant crushed her head and chest with a foreleg, then kicked her aside. First, it knocked down the stilts of the raised bamboo and thatch house, then began furiously stomping down on the rubble. Trapped under a wooden pillar, Dutta's husband survived, but as the 48-year-old woman fled the ruin screaming, the elephant closed in for the kill.

"We have applied for help from the government but nothing has come. We have taken whatever precautions we can. We have prayed. But nothing works. We cannot coexist," said villager Mohammed Abul Ali, looking over tattered clothing, pans and other meager possessions scattered among Dutta's totally flattened home. A family dog and its puppy lay listlessly on what was once the roof.

Prospects for future coexistence, wildlife experts say, are bleak despite a host of conservation projects, from biofencing to elephant tracking via satellite telemetry.

The past is a stark indicator of the endangered creature's future. The animal has disappeared from some 95 percent of its historical range, an elephant empire which stretched from the shores of the Mediterranean to the Yellow River in northern China. Thailand, for example, harbored some 100,000 elephants at the beginning of the 20th century, but is down to less than 6,000 today.

According to the Switzerland-based International Union for Conservation of Nature, 38,500 to 52,500 wild elephants survive in Asia with only another 15,000 in captivity, having largely lost their traditional roles as loggers, trucks, battle tanks and prestige symbols of royal courts.

An Asian elephant can weigh up to five tons. The larger African elephant, although more numerous, is also listed as an endangered species, subject to similar onslaughts.

"Everyone knows the cause, even the layman, the villager, that the forest is finished, that the elephant has no place to remain safely and doesn't have anything to eat, so they are coming out," says Bhupendra Nath Talukdar, a leading wildlife officer in the Assam Forest Department.

"In this battle, the elephant will be defeated easily," he says. "It is really not a conflict with the elephant. It was their place and now we have occupied it."

But the elephant isn't giving up without a fight, and in some places man has even had to surrender territory.

Faced with daily crop raiding, the 45 families of Assam's Rubberbeal village fled a decade ago while residents of a neighboring village remained but built tree houses for speedy getaways. Only now, a few of the families are cautiously returning to an eerie site. The creaking of wind-swept bamboo floats across fallow rice fields and tangled jungle vegetation blankets traces of abandoned homes.

The villagers hope that a now defunct electric fence can be restored. But foolproof humane deterrents—killing of elephants is illegal in Asian countries—have yet to be found, and the highly intelligent animals rarely fall for the same trick twice.

At Jia Gabharu, in Assam's elephant-rife Sonitpur district, forest ranger Gopal Deka said he recently saw a bull sniff the 5-kilometer, 10,000-volt fence, then grab the branch of a banana tree to batten down the wires.

Similar stories are heard of elephants kicking down fence posts or wielding their tusks, which don't conduct electricity, to break through. They have been known to push in earth to fill trenches.

Some herds quickly habituate to traditional repellants like firecrackers, drums and torches, while others take a liking to formerly shunned crops, like citrus fruit, grown as buffer zones. In Bhutan, they have been seen eating oranges and in Sri Lanka even sampling chilies which the giants normally can't tolerate.

Nevertheless, Nandita Hazarika, head of the Assam Haathi Project, says chili has proved probably the best defense for the 800 families the nongovernment organization is helping. In an adaptation from Africa, farmers mix ground chilies, automobile grease and tobacco and smear the paste on rope fences.

The same concoction, wrapped in straw or even inserted into dried dung, is used in chili rolls and "bombs" that are set afire to emit a stinging smoke, made more potent in Assam if the "bhut joloika," perhaps the world's hottest chili, is used.

Elephants can also be clever tacticians. Staffer Dhruba Das has for four years been tracking a "gang" of half a dozen young bulls led by a massive male named Tara, who has taught his charges to open compound gates and neatly break into kitchens and food storage sheds without destroying them. They have not killed, preferring to surround a house, stationing two at the front, one in the back to keep frightened people inside while a fourth homes in on food with his trunk. The loot is then shared.

Such scenes are played out every fall in Sontipur as elephants move out of the Himalayan foothills southward to the Brahmaputra river, following traditional corridors to feed and breed in the grasslands. They return early in the year.

The elephants used to pass human settlements with few problems. But in recent decades, more than 65 percent of forests in the foothills have been razed, while the once forested migration corridors and open grasslands are all but gone, forcing the elephants to move through villages, fields and tea plantations where food is not hard to find.

In a pattern similar to other Asian countries, the corridors are also fragmented by roads, railways, dams and mushrooming towns so the elephants now disperse over ever wider areas. The elephant-man conflict, it is estimated, has spread to almost 60 percent of Assam.

Herds rarely enter villages and killers tend to be male rogues—frustrated young bulls expelled from a herd, aging loners with painful injuries or animals in sexual heat.

Dinesh Choudhury, whose family kept elephants for generations, is one of the last hunters called on by the Indian government to put down habitual killers. He adamantly believes elephants can also turn into what he calls "criminals, terrorists" if severely abused by humans.

Some experts say the only hope for an end to the wars are well-managed wildlife sanctuaries, the restoration of forests outside such reserves and perhaps the abiding love of man for jumbos.

"We're only giving painkillers. We have not had real success... But politicians have no interest in wildlife. For them it's a burden. Wildlife doesn't vote. Right now I don't think we have a chance of reclaiming even 1 percent of the destroyed forests," said Hiten Kumar Baishya of the Sontipur office of the World Wide Fund for Nature, which runs projects throughout Asia's elephant ranges.

Hazarika says restoration of their habitat would take 20 to 30 years, adding, "Till then what do you do? We can't even protect what we have." She hopes the instinct to retaliate after an elephant attack will be mitigated by the ancient aura of divinity around the animal on the Indian subcontinent and around Southeast Asia, mainly through Ganesha, the elephant-headed son of the Hindu god Shiva, whose shrines dot the region. Enraged villagers may kill an elephant only to later pray before its corpse.

"Villagers still have a respect for elephants," Hazarika says. "But the level of tolerance is getting lower and lower."

This was true of the traumatized people of Galighat as some 30 men set out to expel the rogue killer armed only with spears, machetes and firecrackers. They crossed harvested rice paddies, cut a tunnel through thick undergrowth and followed fresh footprints and dung on a dry river bed.

Finally, the elephant was found deep in a sea of towering reeds, hidden, angry and crazy, its breathing clearly audible. It was the size of two pickup trucks and endowed with incredible speed over short distances. The men called a retreat.

The elephant will almost certainly return, and raid and perhaps kill again. But Choudhury believes free-roaming beasts will vanish in less than a decade.

"We knew elephants by heart and they also knew us by heart. The golden era is gone and that is quite painful," he says. "The present scenario is altogether a different thing. The conflict is at the high end and the elephant is fighting a losing battle.

"The fate of the Assam elephants? We will see only their graveyard, and nothing beyond that."

Campus Life

Truly a product of love and caring

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

For our second community service, the Tinian Stallion Battalion JROTC cleaned up the Tinian San Jose Church. This cleanup was held on Feb. 26, 2011, from 8am to 12pm. This event was very successful and all the cadets enjoyed helping out the community church, in preparation for the funeral of Alfredo Fleming and also for the Lenten season.

The principal of Tinian Elementary School, Dionne Santos, says that the success of the Tinian students who participated in the MathCourt competition on Feb. 19, 2011, truly highlights the school's character education campaign phrase for the month of February, which is "Love and Caring."

The Tinian Parent-Teacher-Student Association officers, along with Santos, are happy to express their congratulations to all the students who participated in the MathCourt competition held on Saipan at Chacha Junior High School. Out of 21Tinian students who participated in the event, 13 placed in the competition.

"It is truly a product of 'Love and Caring,' highlighting Tinian Elementary School character education concept for the month of February," Santos said. "Many people contributed to our students' success. First, all our participating students worked hard to earn the right to represent our school by scoring highest in the Star Math computer-based assessment and last school year's SAT 10 results for grade 3 who are now 4th graders, and grade 5th who are now 6th graders. Second, our students' coaches spent hours after school to help perfect student skills for the competition. Third, our parents provided home support for their children and sponsored a fundraiser (flower gram) to help pay for travel by selling flowers on Valentine Day. We had students who were not going to the MathCourt buying flowers for their teachers and parents. We had grandparents buying flowers for their grandchildren, and teachers buying flowers for their students. Altogether the PTSA sold 170 roses," Santos said.

"Thanks are also due to our community partnership with Star Marianas, which provided a good discount airfare so that our students, coach/teachers and parent/chaperones could attend the event on Saipan. Without their generous support, it is unlikely that our students could have attended. Similarly, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and Sen. Jude Hofschneider helped the students' meals and ground transportation."

Santos emphasizes that it "takes a village or community to educate a child. We are very proud of every student who represented Tinian Elementary School. *Sen dankulu na si yu'us maase* to those who supported our students' education experience."

The following are the students who placed in the competition:

NUMBERS

Kindergarten:
1st Place: San Nicolas, Matua
1st Grade:
3rd Place: King, Emiliana
2nd Grade:
1st Place: Shrestha, Kiran
4th Grade:
1st Place: Crisostomo, Craig
4th Place: Dela Cruz, Isa Rae
5th Grade:
2nd Place: Borja, Baltazar
2nd Place: Fleming, Dylan
3rd Place: Quichocho, Michelle
4th Place: Hofschneider, Edric

ALGEBRA/DSP

Kindergarten:
1st Place: Manglona, Lucas
2nd Place: San Nicolas, Matua
1st Grade:
2nd Place: King, Emiliana
2nd Grade:
2nd Place: Shrestha, Kiran
4th Grade:
3rd Place: Dela Cruz, Isa Rae
5th Grade:
1st Place: Fleming, Dylan
2nd Place: Borja, Baltazar
3rd Place: Shrestha, Romeo
3rd Place: Qichocho, Nicole

MEASUREMENT/ GEOMETRY

Kindergarten:
2nd Place: Manglona, Lucas
2nd Place: San Nicolas, Matua
2ndGrade:
1st Place: Shrestha, Kiran
1st Place: Mendiola, David Reyes
4thGrade:
2nd Place: Crisostomo, Craig
5th Grade:
2nd Place: Fleming, Dylan
2nd Place: Quichocho, Michelle
3rd Place: Hofschneider, Edric

Death and Funeral Announcement

In loving memory of our dearly beloved

†Jesus Ricardo Palacios Agulto

Lovingly known as "Chu"

Born: December 07, 1954
Date of Death: March 20, 2011

In his new life, he joins his:
Daughter: *†Reneelynn Agulto Acosta*
Parents: *†Guillermo Concepcion Agulto & †Martha Camacho Palacios Agulto*
Brothers: *†Roman P. Agulto & †Guillermo P. Agulto Jr.*
Brothers & In-Laws: *†Ignacio P./†Chana S. Agulto, †Daniel P. Agulto, †Dolores P. Agulto*
His love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of his:
Wife: *Rita Ramangmou Agulto*
Daugthers & In Laws: *Regina R. Agulto & Franko, Renita & Richard Win, Rebecca R. Agulto & Micheal Blas, Rita Jessica R. Agulto & Jefferey Guerrero*
Son: *Roman R. Agulto*
Brothers & In-Laws: *†Daniel P. Agulto & Mary Agulto (Children), Joe P. & Carmen Agulto, Francisco P. & Gora Agulto (Children)*
Sisters & Brother In-Laws: *Margaret A. Retan and Children, Merced A. /Agustine Camacho & Children, Maria A. & †Steve Stoll, Ana A. & Rick Tauton*
Father & Mother In-law: *Thomas & Maria H. Ramangmou*
Brothers & Sister In-Laws: *Thomas Ramangmou, Eddie Ramangmou, Francisco Ramangmou, Maureen Ramangmou, Maryanne Ramangmou, Ana, Marie Ramangmou, †Francis Ramangmou, Don Flocha, Rufina Roger*

Daily Mass is being held at 6:00PM from March 21, 2011 thru March 27, 2011 followed by the Nightly Rosary held at the San Vicente Church.

On March 28, 2011 at 7:30a.m., his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Cabrera Center to Mt. Carmel Cathedral Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30AM followed by Interment Services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Maase
Rita Ramangmou Agulto, Children & Family

Study: Racial disparity grows for graduation rates

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A study released Monday shows growing disparity between graduation rates for white and black players at schools in the men's NCAA basketball tournament.

An annual report by the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport found a 2 percent overall graduation rate increase to 66 percent for Division I players, but showed the rates for white players is increasing at a higher rate.

The gap has grown from 22 percent in 2009 to a current level of 32 percent. White players show a 91 percent graduation rate, which is up 7 percent. Black players have a graduation rate at 59 percent, up 3 percent from last year's study. This is the third straight year the gap has increased.

Richard Lapchick, the institute director and primary author of the study, said the gap makes it hard to celebrate the overall progress.

"To say that it's troubling is an understatement," Lapchick said. "It is a staggering gap, but I think you've seen an increased percentage among African-American athletes over the years because of the (Academic Progress Rate) thresholds. Losing scholarships is a big lever there. But I think now you have to raise the expectation level of the rates."

Information was collected by the NCAA from member institutions for the study. The institute reviewed the six-year graduation rates of each school's freshman class that enrolled in 2003-04, then calculated a four-class average. Princeton was not included in the overall graduation rate figure because it, like other Ivy League schools, doesn't report graduation rates.

Only five schools (Boston University, Northern Colorado, Old Dominion, Pittsburgh, North Carolina-Ashville) have graduation rates for black players that were higher than their figures for white players.

The NCAA created the APR in 2004 to improve graduation rates, disciplining schools in the form of lost scholarships when they don't meet the NCAA standard for academic performance. Teams that score below 925 - equal to a graduation rate of 50 percent- can lose up to 10 percent of their scholarships. Poor performance over time could lead to harsher penalties.

Lapchick said he would like to see the NCAA standard go up to 60 percent. Only 10 teams in this year's tournament show APRs below 925, with 41 teams with an APR of 950 or higher and 36 teams with an APR of 960 or higher.

"I think that would help also put pressure on athletes, including African-American basketball players, and the schools will have to be more accountable to make sure they have the opportunity to be successful in finishing their degrees," Lapchick said.

A report on the teams competing in the women's NCAA tournament will be released Tuesday.

Life & Style

WSJ. profile: The power of Anna Wintour

AP

This magazine cover image courtesy of WSJ. Magazine shows the April 2011 cover of WSJ. Magazine. The issue will hit newsstands on March 26, 2011.

NEW YORK (AP)—In fashion circles and beyond—in the worlds of business, politics and entertainment—she's just Anna, a worthy peer to Oprah and Martha.

And even though Anna Wintour's name might not be as instantly recognizable as Oprah Winfrey's or Martha Stewart's, Anna, American Vogue's editor-in-chief, might still be influencing unsuspecting consumers about what they wear, how they shop and what celebrity or cause is about to be the talk of the town.

That's why WSJ., the glossy lifestyle magazine published by The Wall Street Journal, is featuring her on its cover with an article exploring her power and influence in the fashion industry beyond the pages of her magazine.

"She's a really powerful figure in America ... someone whose power extends beyond what she does," says Deborah Needleman, editor of WSJ., which scored the rare profile of Wintour—and posed cover photograph—for its April issue.

Despite her image as an ice queen, those who know her say she can be loyal and even warm to those in her inner circle, which reads like a Who's Who list: Karl Lagerfeld, Marc Jacobs, Oscar de la Renta, Harvey Weinstein, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Nicole Kidman, Roger Federer and Amar'e Stoudemire, among them.

The cover photo was shot by Mario Testino, another Team Anna player.

Friends and others who dreams of falling in that group don't dare say no to her, according to the article, which quotes Jacobs as saying: "If I get a request for something, there aren't two possible answers. First I get an email, then a phone call from someone at Vogue, and now I don't even bother to say no—I know the next call is from her."

Jacobs is one of those who benefitted from Wintour's influence. She suggested Jacobs' name to LVMH CEO Bernard Arnault when he was looking for a designer to take over Louis Vuitton in 1997.

Needleman says "it's hard to imagine that Arnault wouldn't ask her for advice for something like Dior," referring to the future of the Christian Dior brand following the firing of designer John Galliano for his anti-Semitic outbursts. Dior is owned by LVMH; Galliano had gotten his position with Wintour's help.

"You have to wonder, how does one person have such a broad influence?" says Needleman, adding: "She's basically a global brand."

Her biggest feat yet might be the shopping phenomenon that is Fashion's Night Out, a huge-scale retail event she masterminded in 2009 in New York and made bigger last year to span the globe. She persuaded stores to host lavish parties mixing celebrities and shoppers, offer discounts and pour free champagne, then she nudged consumers to open their wallets despite the recession.

"She basically created a holiday from scratch," Needleman says. "Who else has the power to take New York and create a holiday?"

Stars align for Britain's royal wedding

LONDON (AP)—Kate Middleton and Prince William are a match made in heaven. Just check their horoscopes.

The couple will be delighted to know their star signs, Capricorn and Cancer, indicate they are highly compatible and have a good chance of having a successful marriage, according to leading British astrologers.

"They probably feel like soulmates," said Wendy Stacey, chair of the Astrological Association of Great Britain.

Take it as a bunch of hooey or a celestial peek into the future. Just keep in mind that The Associated Press reported in 1981 that an astrologer warned that Prince Charles, who was born under the complex sign of Scorpio, would have a "stormy marriage" in his union with Princess Diana, born under the sensitive, intuitive Cancer star sign.

Everyone knows how that ended up.

Jay Lucan, who works with the British Astrological and Psychic Society said the new royal couple have "75 percent relationship compatibility" based on their star charts—giving them "definitely a good chance" of outlasting William's parents in matrimony.

Both Stacey and Lucan acknowledge they cannot confirm the accuracy of their predictions for many reasons. The biggest drawback is not knowing Middleton's exact time of birth; Prince William's was publicly announced as a matter of national interest.

So what do the couple's birth dates tell us?

For starters, Middleton, born on Jan. 9, 1982, is a Capricorn (an earth sign) while William, born June 21, 1982, is a Cancer (a water sign). Each star sign is designated an element: air, water, fire and earth.

"Cancers and Capricorns are opposites as water and earth," Stacey explains. "As a result, they can read each other very clearly and they have a deep emotional understanding. It's quite a lovely thing."

Middleton and Prince William, the astrologers claim, both exhibit characteristic traits of their star signs.

"William is emotionally very private—a typical Cancer. He doesn't share a lot and likes to retreat," Stacey said. Case in point: the couple plan to settle post-wedding in a backwater town in Wales as Prince William works as a search and rescue pilot with the Royal Air Force.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Elizabeth Blanco Matsunaga

Born on July 31, 1913, she was called to her Father's Kingdom on March 15, 2011 after having lived a full life of 97 years.

IN HER NEW LIFE, SHE IS FINALLY HOME IN HEAVEN AND REUNITED WITH HER:

Grandparents: *Domingo DLG. Blanco & Juana Manahane Taitano*
Sakai Matsunaga & Hiyaen Watanabe
Parents: *Juan Watanabe Matsunaga & Maria Taitano Blanco Matsunaga*
Husband: *Hanazawa Tsuruo*
Brothers/Sisters/spouses:
Ramon B. Matsunaga, Jose B. Matsunaga, Sr. Ursula B. Matsunaga, MMB, Juana B. Matsunaga, Juan B. & Ana Benavente Matsunaga, Efrain B. Matsunaga & Maria Narikawa Matsunaga & Remedio Camacho Matsunaga, Daniel B. & Natividad (aka "Daling") Matsunaga, Manases B. Matsunaga, Concepcion M. Ooka & Agustino Izuka & Jesus Ooka, Petra P. & Daniel Ching
Son & In-law: *Francisco (Minoru) B. Matsunaga & Antonia Tudela Matsunaga*
Son-in-law: *David Quichocho Maratita*
Nephews/Nieces: *Calistro Matsunaga Izuka*

HER LIFETIME OF MEMORIES WILL BE CHERISHED BY HER:

Reared-daughter & grandchildren:
Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita *(Matthew, Winona)*
Grandchildren & great grandchildren:
Thomas Tudela Matsunaga *(Trumaine, Jordan, Randall, Kendall, Thomas Jr., Tyler*
George Tudela Matsunaga *& Leonora C. Bowie (Regina [Baron James], Alexis, Frank)*
Ramon Tudela Matsunaga *& Tina Pangelinan (Isabel, Victoria, Christina)*
Elizabeth Tudela Matsunaga *& George Lieto (George Jr., Lorraine, Kimberly, Eva, Eugene, George, Peter, Francisco, Ana, Marie Rose, Magdalena)*
Devine Cabrera Matsunaga *& Rico Pabalan (Devin, Daniel, Darren)*
Francisco Cabrera Matsunaga, Jr. *& Marissa A.*
Reared-son: ***Katsushi Yagi***
Daughter-in-law: ***Cynthia Cabrera Matsunaga***

She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, great-great grand children, cousins, and godchildren and missed by her many friends, especially at the Man Amko Center.

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa. On Thursday, March 24, 2011, her remains will be escorted at 8:00 a.m. from Borja's Funeral Home in San Jose to Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. and interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Anti-suicide Trevor Project to honor Radcliffe

NEW YORK (AP)—Daniel Radcliffe looks forward to a tolerant world where young people grow up unaffected by differences in sexual orientation.

For the past couple of years, the "Harry Potter" star has been doing his part to make that a reality with his work with the Trevor Project, the leading organization for suicide prevention efforts among gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youths.

For his contribution, Radcliffe is being honored with the organization's Hero Award at a ceremony in New York in June.

"It's fantastic," Radcliffe told The Associated Press. "The fact that they think of what I've done by promoting awareness of the Trevor Project itself and the issues that it works to promote and help is a great honor."

The Trevor Hero Award, announced Monday, recognizes a person who serves as an inspiration to sexual minority youths and increases visibility and understanding of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning, or LGBTQ, community. Past Hero Award recipients include screen and stage actor Nathan Lane, screenwriter Dustin Lance Black and former Miss America and "Ugly Betty" actress Vanessa Williams.

While privileged to be a part of this group carrying forward the organization's life-saving work, Radcliffe said he feels a little bashful about it, too.

"The people that are doing the heroic things are the people answering phones 24 hours a day in the Trevor call centers," he said. "I think that out of everything that I've done so far in my career, I think this is absolutely one of the most important, if not the most important, thing that I'm associated with."

AP

In this March 17, 2011 photo, actor Daniel Radcliffe poses for a portrait in New York. Radcliffe will be honored with the Trevor Project's Hero Award at a ceremony in New York in June, 2011.

Radcliffe, currently appearing in the Broadway revival of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," says audience members often acknowledge his work with the organization.

"I meet people at the stage door every night that thank me for what I'm doing with the Trevor project," he said proudly.

The Trevor Project was founded in 1998 by filmmakers James Lecesne, Peggy Rajski and Randy Stone. Their 1994 film, "Trevor," about a gay 13-year-old boy who tried to commit suicide after his friends learned of his sexuality, won the Academy Award for Film Short. The film was the catalyst for the birth of the organization after it was shown on HBO in 1998.

Radcliffe became aware of the Trevor Project in 2008 during his Broadway debut in a revival of "Equus." Since 2009, he has appeared in public service announcements and has made public statements in support of the organization.

The last installment of the "Harry Potter" franchise, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2," will be released in June.

Along with Radcliffe, who plays the title character in the "Harry Potter" movies," the Trevor Project will honor Ernst & Young LLP with the Trevor 2020 Award, for a corporation that has provided support for the community and increased understanding of LGBTQ issues.

'Uncle' named best picture at Asian Film Awards

HONG KONG (AP)—The Thai film "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives" was named best picture at the fifth Asian Film Awards on Monday in a ceremony overshadowed by the absence of Japanese filmmakers who stayed home in the wake of a deadly earthquake and tsunami.

Apichatpong Weerasethakul's mystical drama follows a dying man from Thailand's rural northeast who explores his past and the idea of reincarnation in his final days. Apichatpong said it was especially sweet to win in his home region, a year after he took the top Palme d'Or award at France's Cannes Film Festival.

The director, whose earlier credits include "Tropical Malady" and "Syndromes and a Century," said the critical acclaim his contemplative work received signaled displeasure with the growing influence of western commercial cinema.

"I think maybe that shows that's what some people need, because the films that are being made now are so universal in terms of style and storytelling. That means maybe we need something different and some diversity," he said.

Veteran South Korean director Lee Chang-dong took home best director and best screenplay for "Poetry," about an elderly woman who discovers a passion for writing poems. Lee also won best screenplay for the same movie at Cannes last year.

Shy young Aussie is cementing her spot in Young Hollywood

By **AMY KAUFMAN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Of all the stars Mia Wasikowska saw at Vanity Fair's exclusive Oscar party last month, Justin Bieber was the one she found most fascinating. There he was, in all his pint-sized teen idol glory, scurrying around the Sunset Tower with Disney star Selena Gomez in tow.

"They were just, like, snickering and running away somewhere," the actress, 21, recounted.

But unlike Bieber's legion of screaming tween fans, Wasikowska wasn't interested in the romantic status of the pair. Instead, she was struck by how many partygoers also seemed unable to tear their eyes away from the young singer.

"I was thinking, 'Wow, how do you handle that?'" she said. "I'm so curious about people like that."

Indeed, Bieber's world is one Wasikowska can scarcely imagine—and most definitely doesn't want to be—living in. Despite her leading role in last year's blockbuster "Alice in Wonderland," she's still not the kind of actress people recognize.

When she arrived for an interview recently at the cafe she had selected for lunch, no one gawked at her unfussy look (an outfit of muted colors, just-brushed cropped hair and Mary Janes). She curled into a wall while waiting for her table, looking at the eccentric artist types filling the place.

It was almost as if she were still playing the role of Jane Eyre, the 19th century English literary heroine who Wasikowska takes on in a new film based on the Charlotte Bronte novel. Quiet and even meek on the surface, both the character and the actress harbor less obvious passions.

"Sort of a pot of boiling water with a lid on it," as "Jane Eyre" director Cary Fukunaga explained it.

"I like to think of myself as an observer," said Wasikowska. "And the whole experience of 'Alice' sort of made me be observed, so that was occasionally uncomfortable. It was sort of on a level that I've never experienced before. At times, it was kind of scary. ... Once you're put out there in the public eye, people feel a certain ownership over you. It's interesting feeling out of control of your identity."

Despite her feelings about fame, Wasikowska has been working in the public eye since she was a teenager in her native Australia, where she had a role on a popular television medical drama. Her first break in America came with a turn as a suicidal gymnast on the HBO series "In Treatment." She attracted enough notice to land a number of films, including "Alice" and last year's Oscar-nominated "The Kids Are All Right," in which she played the daughter of Annette Bening and Julianne's Moore's lesbian couple, in addition to "Jane Eyre."

If she hasn't already cemented her place as one of Young Hollywood's leading actresses, the next year should do it. In the coming months, she has a slew of diverse parts in a number of high-profile projects. There's Gus Van Sant's "Restless," her first real romantic leading role; "Albert Nobbs," a drama written by Glenn Close and John Banville and directed by Rodrigo Garcia; "The Wettest County in the World," a Depression-era crime drama in which she's cast opposite Shia LaBeouf; and "Stoker," a film directed by fanboy favorite Park Chan-wook with Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman.

Asked to describe what it was like working with Wasikowska, a handful of filmmakers and actors all came back with essentially the same response.

"She's shy," said Van Sant.

"She's totally not self-promoting," added Close.

"She's not the person who is looking to be the center of attention," echoed Fukunaga.

Or, as her "Alice in Wonderland" costar Helena Bonham Carter put it: "Mia is quietly extraordinary."

But is she really as timid as everyone imagines?

AP

Mia Wasikowska stars as the title character in "Alice in Wonderland."

"I think so," copped the actress, pausing for a moment on the thought. "I mean, there's a certain amount of performing that goes on, but I don't know. Do people think I'm shy? I am in situations."

While she has become more comfortable in Hollywood, she doesn't want to move here permanently and still spends any time she has off with her family back in her hometown of Canberra. There, she mostly sleeps and reads.

It was at home that she became transfixed by "Jane Eyre," e-mailing her agent after only a few chapters to find out whether anyone was developing the project into a film. The famous book has, of course, been on the screen numerous times before: Since 1910, there have been 18 feature versions, plus nine television versions.

Overwhelmed by the sheer volume of the past incarnations, Wasikowska didn't watch any of them. But she still felt a pull to the character that she wasn't able to fully articulate.

"Often, if I read a story and I'm moved, I have an understanding for a character and I don't really know why," she said. She's been in relationships before, but none as intense as the one between Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester, played in the new film by German-born actor Michael Fassbender.

"Nothing on that level, with a wife in the attic," she laughed. "But I think every girl has her relationship that's the really dramatic one. And we really wanted there to be a sense of that all going on inside her head. Like anyone who experiences bottling something up, when you get the chance to let that out, that's terrifying and sad and everything."

She paused to pull out her iPhone, showing off a photograph she took on the set in Derbyshire, England. During the last year, she's begun toting a camera around on her travels, taking pictures of her hotel rooms and costars. (Both of her parents are also photographers.)

"I just like to shoot my perspective," she said, flipping through a series of images and stopping on one of Van Sant with a viewfinder shrouding his face. While shooting "Restless," she said, he encouraged her to take as many photographs as she wanted.

"To her, this is all a big adventure," Van Sant said of the actress' burgeoning career. "She works a lot. I think there's something where she wants to do as much as she can, just to find her way in the Hollywood world."

Macchio on top during 'Dancing' season premiere

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 12th season of "Dancing With the Stars" is under way.

The hit ABC show began its latest season Monday with performances by its new cast of 11 stars. Actor Ralph Macchio was the night's top scorer with 24 points out of 30. Kirstie Alley came in second place with 23 points.

Radio host Mike Catherwood finished last with 13 points. Talk-show host Wendy Williams did one point better.

The other contestants are actress Chelsea Kane, singer Romeo, reality star Kendra Wilkinson, model Petra Nemcova and athletes Sugar Ray Leonard, Hines Ward and Chris Jericho.

All will dance again on March 28. One contestant will be eliminated from the show on March 29.

AP

In this June 23, 2010 file photo, actor Ralph Macchio attends the premiere of 'Grown Ups' at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

Disney to resume some Japan ops; parks still shut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. said Monday that it will resume some operations that had been halted by the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan over a week ago, but that its theme parks Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea, owned by partner Oriental Land Co., will remain closed for now.

On Friday, Oriental Land said that an inspection showed no major damage to buildings and facilities and that the parks are in good condition. But the lack of a stable electricity supply and transportation issues to and from the parks led it to postpone their re-opening. A portion of its flat parking area suffered liquefaction, when soil loses its shape and begins to behave like water, due to the 9.0-magnitude earthquake.

Disney said Monday that it would resume some operations in Japan on Tuesday, but it did not immediately make clear what operations those were. There are Disney Stores in Japan and its movies are shown in the country.

The parks are owned by Oriental Land, which pays licensing fees to Disney based on a percentage of revenue.

Morgan Stanley analyst Benjamin Swinburne said last week that revenue from the Tokyo parks amounted to about $240 million in fiscal 2010 and that Disney was likely to lose about 5 cents to 6 cents of earnings per share based on the disaster.

The quake and resulting tsunami are estimated to have killed 18,400 people, displaced 452,000 others, and damaged a nuclear power facility about 140 miles north of Tokyo.

Disney shares rose 59 cents, or 1.4 percent, to close at $41.82 on Monday.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

MTV reality star applies for pretrial intervention

TOMS RIVER, New Jersey (AP)—A lawyer for "Jersey Shore" cast member Ronnie Ortiz-Magro has told a judge his client will apply to a pretrial intervention program in an assault case. Pretrial intervention allows a defendant to avoid a criminal record if he stays out of trouble. The 25-year-old reality TV show star from New York City was charged after a September 2009 fight in which he knocked another man unconscious outside a Seaside Heights, New Jersey, nightclub. The fight was shown during the MTV show's first season. Assistant Ocean County prosecutor Hillary Bryce said Monday the application frees Ortiz-Magro to travel to Italy next month for taping of the show's next season. Bryce tells the Asbury Park Press newspaper Ortiz-Magro will be required to appear in state Superior Court in June to learn if he's been accepted into the program.

Court won't get involved in Eminem royalty suit

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court won't get involved in a fight between Eminem's former production company and Universal Music Group over downloads of the rapper's songs and ringtones. The high court on Monday refused to hear an appeal from Universal Music Group. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said F.B.T. Productions LLC's contract entitled Eminem and his producers to a 50-50 split with Universal for recordings licensed to digital distributors such as Apple Inc.'s iTunes. The record label had paid F.B.T. and Eminem 12 percent of sales, the agreed-upon rate for physical albums. F.B.T. discovered Eminem in 1995 before he signed in 1998 with Dr. Dre's Aftermath Records. Universal's Interscope Records distributes Aftermath recordings.

Pianist Roger Williams battling pancreatic cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Autumn Leaves" and "Born Free" pianist Roger Williams is battling pancreatic cancer. The 86-year-old entertainer known as the "Pianist to the Presidents" because of his many presidential performances writes in an email message to friends that he started chemotherapy last week. He says doctors told him the tumor cannot be removed because of its size. When chemotherapy shrinks the tumor to an operable size, Williams says surgeons will remove it. Williams says he's not canceling any upcoming concerts. He performed Sunday at Del Webb's Sun City retirement resort in Palm Desert, and his personal assistant says the concert was sensational.

Sitcom vets returning in new shows on TV Land

NEW YORK (AP)—Count Fran Drescher of "The Nanny" and Wayne Knight of "Seinfeld" among TV veterans returning in new sitcoms. TV Land network is announcing that Drescher will be back on the air with "Happily Divorced." She will star as a florist who deals with dating after finding out her husband is gay. The network said Monday that "Happily Divorced" will premiere June 15. A second new sitcom, "The Exes," stars Knight as one of three divorced men who share an apartment across the hall from their divorce attorney, played by Kristen Johnston of "3rd Rock from the Sun." It is slated to debut next winter, along with a second season of "Retired at 35." TV Land said its first original sitcom, "Hot in Cleveland," will be back with new episodes in June.

Israeli university to honor Bob Geldof

JERUSALEM (AP)—Bob Geldof is being awarded an honorary doctorate from an Israeli university for his work to end hunger in Africa and raise awareness about poverty. Ben-Gurion University said Monday that it will award the degree to the Irish singer and social activist in a ceremony at the end of May. Geldof staged the Live Aid fundraising concerts in London and Philadelphia in 1985, which featured 60 top musicians and bands. Proceeds were used to help hunger victims in Africa. Geldof has said that he was inspired to organize the event after watching a news broadcast about the Ethiopian famine. Geldof has organized other aid shows since. He first shot to fame in the late 1970's as lead singer of the Irish rock group The Boomtown Rats.

Colombian writer wins Spanish literary prize

MADRID (AP)—Colombian writer Juan Gabriel Vasquez has won the 2011 Alfaguara Spanish literary prize for his novel "El ruido de las cosas al caer" (The Sound of Things Falling). In a statement Monday, the publishing house describes the book as "dark balance of an age of terror and violence" in the Colombian capital. The award, one of the most prestigious in the Spanish language, includes a prize of€123,000($175,000). Alfaguara says 608 works were considered for the prize. One of Colombia's most admired authors, Vasquez was born in Bogota in 1973. He lives in the northeastern Spanish city of Barcelona. His other books include "The Secret History of Costaguana" and "The Informers."

State's film office offers whitewater on demand

CHARLESTON, West Virginia (AP)—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the West Virginia Film Office are teaming up to provide filmmakers a whitewater river on demand. Called River on Demand, the service allows filmmakers to take advantage of controlled releases from the Summersville Dam to create photogenic whitewater on the Gauley River. Water releases are timed with the corps' annual drawdown of the lake in the fall. Corps senior water management specialist Jim Schray says since the releases are occurring any way, film producers can request specific times to accommodate their schedules.

Writers guild reaches deal with Hollywood studios

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The union representing more than 12,000 writers of Hollywood-made movies and TV shows has agreed to a tentative deal with the studios. The three-year agreement reached Sunday by the Writers Guild of America follows similar pacts reached in the last several months by two actors unions and the directors union. It locks in 2 percent wage increases for each year of the deal. West and East Coast branches will need to approve the deal before it is sent to members for ratification. The agreement came after less than three weeks of bargaining and is a stark contrast to the dragged-out disputes of years past. A writers strike in 2008 shut down much of Hollywood for 100 days. In 2009, actors signed a shortened two-year pact after a year of public feuding.

First-time mother-in-law looks to prayer for guidance

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have read with interest your columns with tales of discontent involving overbearing in-laws. Some of them have been downright frightening, although, of course, not all in-law relationships are fraught with conflict.

I bring this up because I'm about to become a mother-in-law for the first time. My oldest son will marry his longtime girlfriend early this summer. She's a lovely girl, and we already consider her to be a cherished member of our family.

I remember a "Mother-in-Law's Prayer" that ran in your column years ago. It was a kind of "pep talk" from a woman to herself as she approaches mother-in-law status. I found it quite humorous. Would you please reprint it for me and for other mothers-in-law as the spring wedding season beckons? Hopefully, I won't need to refer to it often. Also, how can I get the booklet that contains it?

KATHERINE M., FORT WAYNE, IND.

DEAR KATHERINE: Congratulations on your son's forthcoming wedding. The item you referenced has been asked for many times.

Over the years, readers have requested that I reprint articles that have special meaning to them on subjects such as parenting, children, animals, aging, death, forgiveness, etc. My booklet ("Keepers") contains 72 column pieces that people have told me they kept to re-read until the pieces were yellow with age and falling apart. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. You'll find stories, poems and prayers like the one below to inspire you, make you think or simply brighten your day.

If all mother-in-law relationships were judged solely by the letters in my column, many people would conclude that it's an emotional minefield. I discussed this subject with a psychiatrist who shared that a mother-in-law who is perceived as overbearing may be one who was a conscientious mother. But now that her child is grown, she finds it difficult to relinquish her role as teacher and protector and quit "hovering"—an interesting observation.

A MOTHER-IN-LAW'S PRAYER

"O, Lord, help me to be glad when my son (or daughter) picks a mate. If he brings home a girl with two heads, let me love both of them equally. And when my son says, 'Mom, I want to get married,' forbid that I should blurt out, 'How far along is she?'

"And please, Lord, help me to get through the wedding preparations without a squabble with the 'other side.' And drive from my mind the belief that had my child waited a while, he or she could have done better.

"Dear Lord, remind me daily that when I become a grandmother, my children don't want advice on how to raise their children any more than I did when I was raising mine.

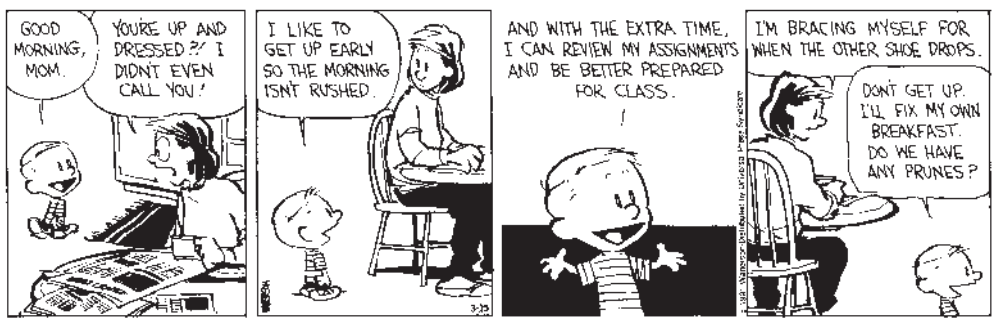
"If you will help me to do these things, perhaps my children will find me a joy to be around, and maybe I won't have to write a 'Dear Abby' letter complaining about my children neglecting me. Amen."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


GOOD MORNING, MOM.
YOU'RE UP AND DRESSED?! I DIDN'T EVEN CALL YOU!
I LIKE TO GET UP EARLY SO THE MORNING ISN'T RUSHED.
AND WITH THE EXTRA TIME, I CAN REVIEW MY ASSIGNMENTS AND BE BETTER PREPARED FOR CLASS.
I'M BRACING MYSELF FOR WHEN THE OTHER SHOE DROPS.
DON'T GET UP. I'LL FIX MY OWN BREAKFAST. DO WE HAVE ANY PRUNES?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'VE PROGRAMMED MY PHONE SO THAT EACH CALLER HAS THEIR OWN RING
GRAAAAK! GRAAAAK!
AH, THE SCREECHING HARPY
MRS. FEENY ON LINE ONE
JIM DAVIS 3-23

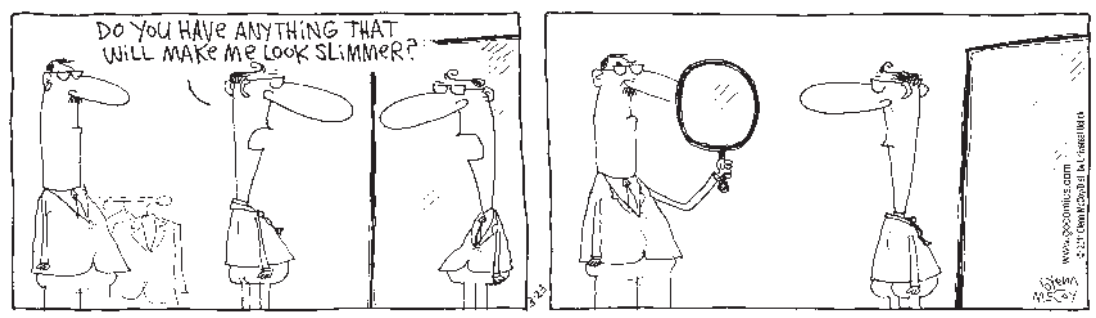
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HI, PAT. ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MY PROPOSAL?
MY STAFF? UMM...
WELL, I HAVE A DEDICATED AND EXPERIENCED TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT.
AND A BOOKKEEPER WHO'S GREAT WITH NUMBERS... AND AN EXCELLENT KISSER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

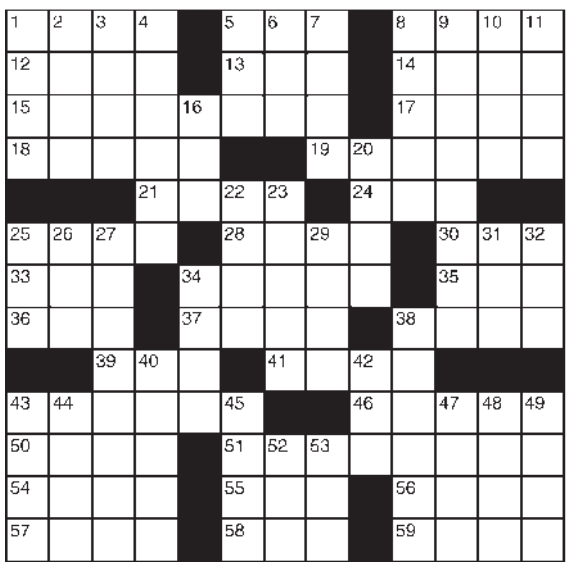
ACROSS
1 Writer Kingsley
5 Hot tub
8 Adam and Eve's son
12 Dog owner's chore
13 Work unit
14 Burning heap
15 High score in darts
17 Ogler's look
18 Apportion
19 Kitchen rack fillers
21 "Memory" musical
24 Greek vowel
25 Hoist
28 Beams of light
30 Agree silently
33 — Khan
34 "Likewise"
35 Rotation duration
36 Thither
37 Fine
38 Informa-tion unit
39 "— Kapital"
41 Christmas refrain
43 Father Time's prop
46 Festive parties
50 Exile isle
51 "Who Wants to Be a Million-aire" lifeline
54 Gridiron termi-nus
55 Bikini half
56 Great Lake
57 Shrek is one
58 Stitch
59 Time-table, for short

DOWN
1 "Mamma Mia" group
2 Man-handle
3 "— do for now"
4 Cheap merchan-dise
5 Witness
6 Crowbar
7 Census statistics
8 Gymnas-tic maneuver
9 Some-thing superfi-cially attractive
10 Geneal-ogy chart
11 Divorce settle-ment portion
16 Depot (Abbr.)
20 Mexican money
22 "Star —"
23 Beelzebub
25 Funny Leno
26 Back when
27 Wonka creation
29 Vacillate
31 Feedbag morsel
32 Coloring agent
34 Slam-dance
38 Trumpet sounds
40 "— of Two Cities"
42 Early bird?
43 Lily variety
44 Stop up
45 Recedes
47 Caprice
48 "... baked in —"
49 Molt
52 Exist
53 Uncivi-lized

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	A	M	S	■	B	R	A	■	Z	I	T	I
I	D	E	A	■	E	A	T	■	E	D	E	N
M	O	N	U	M	E	N	T	■	P	L	A	N
■	■	■	C	O	P	■	O	C	H	E	R	S
C	A	M	F	O	■	G	R	A	Y	■	■	■
H	U	E	S	■	M	O	N	T	R	E	A	L
C	T	A	■	F	A	T	E	S	■	U	S	A
M	O	N	A	H	C	H	Y	■	H	A	I	■
■	■	■	B	A	R	S	■	E	L	O	P	E
P	A	P	A	Y	A	■	A	G	O	■	■	■
E	P	I	C	■	M	O	N	O	R	A	I	L
F	S	A	U	■	F	V	F	■	I	I	K	S
R	E	F	S	■	S	A	W	■	D	E	E	D

Yesterday's answer 2-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ben Rappaport, 25; Keri Russell, 35; Catherine Keener, 52; Chaka Khan, 58

Happy Birthday: This can be a year of progress if you are ready to make the changes that will enable you to complete unfinished business and personal matters. There is a brighter financial future but first you must be willing to give up some of the luxuries you don't really need. Make your money work more efficiently for you. Your numbers are 7, 13, 22, 25, 37, 39, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Be positive when dealing with anyone you are involved with financially. Lay your cards on the table and ask direct questions so that you know where you stand and what needs to be done. Get everything out in the open so you are free to move forward baggage-free. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Sorrow will prevail if you or someone you are dealing with isn't honest regarding feelings and long-term plans. Keeping secrets will not solve problems. Gather your thoughts and explain your situation. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take a close look at what you have to offer and how you can display your best assets. Refrain from letting your emotions take over. Withholding information will quickly jeopardize your position and could ruin a good deal. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Problems are inevitable and must be handled immediately. Give your undivided attention and time to turning a negative into a positive. Hesitating because you are uncertain will only make matters worse. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let an emotional or money problem dampen your day. Focus on what you can offer others without going over budget and how you can make the most of your talents, skills and knowledge. Communication is highlighted. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be honest with others and yourself. Problems at home will develop if you overspend on things you cannot afford. Doing the work and saving money will impress someone who can change your life. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Surround yourself with people who motivate you and you will accomplish more. Equality will make any partnership work more efficiently. Delegate responsibilities. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make plans to socialize and put a little romance into your life. The people you connect with now will be inspirational—mentally, emotionally and financially. Someone from your past will be able to help you out now. Make contact. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Bring on any change you can that will help you feel more comfortable in your surroundings and with the people who mean the most to you. Don't believe everything you hear from a third party. An opportunity for a move should be acted upon. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't reveal too much about what you are up to personally. If you are reconnecting with someone from your past, make sure this development isn't going to cause additional stress on your current personal situation. Resolve one set of circumstances before you decide to take on another. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Too much, too fast will end up costing you. Don't let emotional matters lead to deception and sorrow. Keep everything you do out in the open so you aren't blamed for hiding information that might incriminate you. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make change based on what you see and hear, first hand. Don't be fooled by someone trying to push you in a direction that doesn't suit your needs. Anger will surface if you feel threatened or pushed by someone with whom you are in an emotional or financial partnership. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable and always ready for action. You show your emotions and are a master at the art of persuasion.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3	7	2	8			
			3			9		
4		6					8	
3	9				7			4
	7						2	
5	1	4						9
2	6		8				9	
8				9	4	6		
			1	6				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	5	9	3	7	2	8	4
8	3	4	5	1	2	9	6	7
7	9	2	4	6	8	3	1	5
2	4	3	1	8	6	5	7	9
9	8	6	7	2	5	1	4	3
1	5	7	3	4	9	8	2	6
4	2	1	6	5	3	7	9	8
5	7	8	2	9	4	6	3	1
3	6	9	8	7	1	4	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

IN-N-OUT BURGER Solution: 9 letters

C	F	F	E	Q	S	D	E	T	L	E	M	N	M	I
B	H	R	R	D	U	T	L	U	N	C	H	G	L	T
I	E	E	I	E	I	I	A	O	S	N	O	I	N	O
L	E	N	E	E	S	S	C	E	K	B	L	S	F	M
L	T	C	C	S	N	H	D	K	M	E	S	E	A	A
B	N	H	U	H	E	D	Y	A	T	E	Y	D	M	T
O	E	F	L	A	E	B	L	T	O	F	T	T	O	O
A	I	R	T	F	S	S	U	Y	T	R	R	U	U	E
R	D	I	U	R	R	C	S	R	T	A	O	O	S	S
D	E	E	R	N	E	E	S	R	G	H	P	K	E	U
E	R	S	E	L	I	N	E	P	T	E	S	O	L	C
I	G	U	G	G	U	A	I	W	R	S	R	O	B	C
R	N	N	G	B	T	A	H	D	A	E	A	C	A	E
F	I	E	L	B	U	O	D	C	K	Y	A	F	T	S
J	V	M	U	S	T	A	R	D	Ⓕ	Ⓞ	Ⓞ	Ⓓ	E	S

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Beef, Benches, Billboard, Buns, Chain, Cheeseburger, Cookout, Culture, Design, Diner, Double, Famous, Fast, Food, Freeway, French Fries, Fresh, Fried, Friendly, Ingredient, Jingle, Lettuce, Lunch, Meats, Melted, Menu, Mustard, Onions, Patty, Quick, Roadside, Sauce, Sporty, Spread, Success, Tables, Takeout, Tomatoes, Treat, Veggies

Yesterday's Answer: Hampshire

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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experience required.

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Power Plant 4
at Tel # 322-6181 or
email: cve@pmic.us

This is to inform the general public that **REDENTOR PINEDA DE GUZMAN** is no longer connected with ATOM'S CO. Ltd. effective February 02, 2011.

Atom's Co. Ltd. shall not honor any transaction that maybe entered into by Mr. Redentor P. De Guzman for and on it's behalf effective February 02, 2011.

WHATZIT Solution: A step in the right direction

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 11-025

Opening Date: Tuesday, 03/22/11
Closing Date: Thursday, 03/24/11

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing paraprofessional financial related duties. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional financial support activities to include: Researches, collects, analyzes, and reconciles billing information from disputed accounts. Compiles documents to prepare accounts for resolution. Analyzes information to validate billings. Identifies and processes necessary billing adjustments and completes documents to support adjustments. Prepares written responses to customers of approved dispute resolutions. Initiates telephone contact and maintains proper follow up with customers. Tracks and reviews pending service orders for filed investigations. Assists in the preparation of variety of reports to and from internal departments that will assist in effectively resolving customer disputes in a timely manner. Establishes and maintains positive interactions with internal departments to resolve customer disputes timely. Assists in the preparation and reviews of required documents for Administrative Hearings. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

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SALARY: $24,000.00 to $28,000.00 per annum; Un-graded, Un-classified.

POSITIONS: Two.

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Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- THERESE LIZAMA SALAS, Defendant.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0033 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP, 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:
/s/ Clerk of Court

Dated this 17th day of March, 2011

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DAY & NIGHT

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Eight women, four men picked for Bonds jury

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Barry Bonds finally sat across the court room Monday from the 12 people who will judge whether or not the greatest home-run hitter of all time lied about taking drugs.

Following a daylong selection process, eight women and four men were picked to hear the federal government's case against the 46-year-old former San Francisco Giants star, who is charged with four counts of lying to a grand jury and one count of obstruction for testifying in 2003 that he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs.

Among the jurors there was no shortage of opinion on baseball's Steroids Era or drugs in sports, though all indicated they could rule impartially in the case of Bonds, who holds the records for home runs in a career (762) and a season (73).

Juror No. 69 was angered Congress investigated steroids in sports "on my dime."

"They should be solving things like the national debt," he said.

He made it onto the panel, even though he said Bonds had "probably not (received) a fair trial in the court of public opinion."

Jurors were identified by number rather than name, and U.S. District Judge Susan Illston said their identities won't be revealed until the day after the verdict.

"We got a fair and impartial jury selected after an open process," said Bonds' lead lawyer, Allen Ruby, said outside the courthouse.

From the initial pool of potential jurors who filled out 19-page questionnaires last week, Illston dismissed 38 based on answers, which included whether they had attended Giants games in the last five years, and whether they were familiar with the Mitchell Report on drugs in baseball or congressional hearings into steroids use. Several were dismissed because they said they had formed opinions on the case.

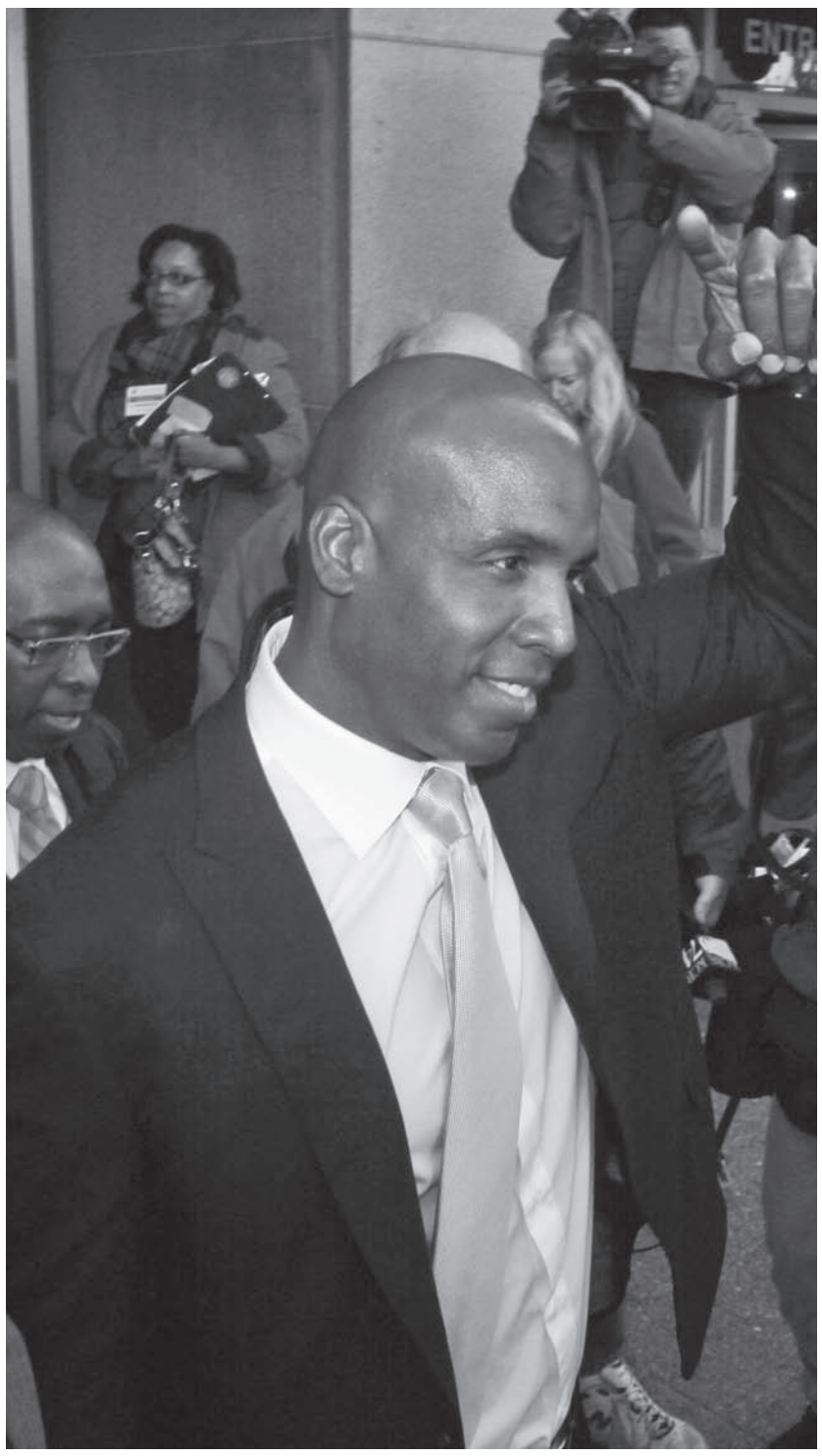
Another was dropped because of the death of a grandmother last weekend, and two more because they said jury duty would be a hardship. Illston denied three other hardship requests.

Thirty-six underwent 70 minutes of questioning from Illston in the morning, and another hour from prosecutors and defense lawyers in the afternoon. After a break, Illston's clerk read the numbers of the chosen 12 and two alternates—down from the four originally intended. Two jurors, both women, are black and 10 are white in a case that could see race become an issue.

Juror No. 24, an Air Force veteran who was not selected, brought it up under questioning. "I pretty much think he was singled out because of his race," the man said.

Juror No. 56, one of the black women selected, said for baseball and the NFL the "commissioner's office should deal with" steroids. "I think it's up to them and not the government to be involved," she said.

Bonds, who in his playing days relaxed by leaning back in his black, leather recliner in the corner of the Giants clubhouse, was attired in a dark suit, white shirt and silver tie and sat in a brown swivel chair about 20 feet from the judge on the 19th floor of the Phillip Burton Federal Building. Bonds spent most of the day speaking quietly with his lawyers and looking at the jurors as they answered questions.



AP

Barry Bonds leaves the federal courthouse after the first day of his perjury trial in San Francisco, Monday, March 21, 2011.

A short distance away at the prosecution table, his back to Bonds, was Jeff Novitzky, the federal agent who has pursued athletes over drug allegations for eight years with dogged intensity. Bonds is the biggest star to face trial because of his efforts.

Bonds' legal team, which spilled over to a side table and the first row of spectator seats, outnumbered the government's 13-5. When his primary lawyers, Ruby and Cristina C. Arguedas, gave their names for the record, Illston responded: "Is that it?"

Arguedas said the key to picking the jurors was picking those who will only consider the evidence presented in court and not consider the facts debated in public until now.

"These people are going to be the true experts in the case," she told reporters.

Bonds earned $192.8 million from the Pittsburgh Pirates and San Francisco Giants during 23 professional seasons, including 22 in the majors, according to an analysis of his contracts by The Associated Press, so it's no surprise he can afford the best defense money can buy.

About a dozen photographers milled outside, but few fans were there to see Bonds walk into the courthouse.

Several jurors said they could keep an open mind even though they had heard much about the case because they believed media reports on Bonds either contained inaccuracies or omissions.

For some, though, the glare of this case was too much to deal with.

"I would be reluctant to render a judgment against a great athlete like Bonds," juror No. 24, a single, 61-year-old man living on disability payments, told Illston. "It would color my judgment." He was not selected.

Juror No. 74 said her experience working as a flight attendant years ago would make it tough for her to be fair.

"I'm still getting over my baseball charters," she said.

So the proceedings could be heard in two others rooms of the court house, Illston's clerk, Tracy Forakis, walked around with a handheld microphone for jurors to speak into.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew A. Parrella asked whether any jurors were Giants fans, and nine raised their hands. When Parrella asked whether the Giants were on trial, none responded. Three jurors raised their hands when asked whether Bonds was an inspiration or someone to look up to.

"He was a good baseball player and everyone admired his hitting ability," juror No. 94 said, adding that would not cause the defendant to be treated differently. The woman was not selected.

Illston estimated the trial will take about four weeks.

When juror No. 94 said she had a trip scheduled to start April 25, Illston checked her calendar, looked up and said, in a somewhat surprised voice, "Well, you know, so do I."

Tennessee fires coach Bruce Pearl

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee wanted to stick with the coach who led the Volunteers program to its greatest achievements. In the end, the university fired Bruce Pearl for too many transgressions away from the court.

Tennessee athletics director Mike Hamilton said in a statement released late Monday that school officials decided to dismiss Pearl, who has been charged by the NCAA with unethical conduct, after learning of additional violations committed on Sept. 14, 2010, and in March 2011.

"Upon receipt of our NCAA Letter of Inquiry in September, we made the difficult decision to forego common national opinion and forge ahead with Bruce and his staff pending any further major infractions or issues that would preclude our basketball program from representing the University of Tennessee in the right manner," Hamilton said. "The cumulative effect of the evolution of the investigation combined with a number of more recent non-NCAA-related incidents have led to a belief that this staff cannot be viable at Tennessee in the future."

Hamilton did not offer any more detail on the March violation or incidents not related to the NCAA investigation. He said the search for a new coach will begin immediately and named video scouting coordinator Houston Fancher, a former Appalachian State coach, as interim coach until Pearl's replacement is hired.

Pearl

Tennessee will pay Pearl $948,728 worth of salary and benefits as part of his dismissal agreement. His assistants will be paid at their current salary rate through July 31.

Pearl acknowledged in a tearful press conference on Sept. 10 that he had given investigators false information when asked about a cookout at his home attended by high school juniors. The NCAA has since charged the Tennessee basketball and football programs with a dozen violations.

He failed to notify Tennessee of another possible recruiting violation that occurred Sept. 14. Instead, the NCAA informed Tennessee that Pearl had violated its "bump rule" after speaking with a high school junior on a recruiting trip to Georgia that day.

"In September, I said that Bruce Pearl was our coach and I expected him to be our coach for a long time," UT-Knoxville Chancellor Jimmy Cheek said. "I am disappointed with the events that have brought us to this point today, events that I would call "the cumulative effect of evolving circumstances.""

Pearl has not commented publicly, but after a 75-45 loss to Michigan on Friday in the second round of the NCAA tournament said that he planned to be accountable for the mistakes he had made but his "goal and desire is to be the basketball coach at Tennessee next year and for a long time."

In six seasons, Pearl, 51, led the Volunteers to their first No. 1 ranking in 2008, first Southeastern Conference regular season championship in four decades and first NCAA tournament regional finals appearance, missing out on a trip to the 2010 Final Four by a single point.

He amassed a 145-61 record and leaves the school as a popular coach.

An unscientific online poll conducted by The Knoxville News Sentinel after Tennessee received its notice of allegations from the NCAA on Feb. 24 showed 70 percent of the 9,600 respondents still supported Pearl. Fans gathered Sunday in a rally to show support, and Knoxville businesses displayed messages supporting Pearl on Monday.

He promoted Tennessee in a way no other coach had before with antics like appearing at a Lady Vols basketball game with his bare chest painted orange. The fans responded with boosted attendance at Vols games, which prompted athletics officials to upgrade the school's cavernous Thompson-Boling Arena and build a new basketball practice facility.

Lady Vols coach Pat Summitt responded to Pearl's chest painting later that season by showing up to a Vols game dressed as a cheerleader. She said Pearl had become a brother-like figure to her and that she would miss him.

"I hope he finds a place that's right for him, because he'll keep coaching," Summitt said. "We'll always be friends. I've really, really enjoyed being around Bruce. Obviously if he can paint his chest and I can be a cheerleader it tells you we have a pretty good thing going here.

Pearl contributed to the Knoxville community in a way his predecessors hadn't. He led Tennessee's annual Outlive campaign to raise money for cancer prevention programs and research and endowed a scholarship in the name of former Vol Dane Bradshaw.

He was hired in March 2005 to replace Buzz Peterson, who had gone 61-59 and failed to reach the NCAA tournament in four seasons at Tennessee. Pearl had just led Wisconsin-Milwaukee to Sweet Sixteen and finished 86-38 overall after four seasons.

He spent six years as an assistant at Iowa under the tutelage of coach Tom Davis. It was during his Iowa tenure that Pearl recorded a phone conversation with recruit Deon Thomas about Thomas' recruitment by rival Illinois. Pearl turned the recording over to the NCAA, which investigated and uncovered unrelated recruiting violations by Illinois.

Pearl also spent nine seasons at Southern Indiana, leading the Screaming Eagles to the 1995 Division II national championship.

Spurs' Duncan sprains ankle in win over Warriors

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Manu Ginobili scored 28 points and the San Antonio Spurs got a scare when Tim Duncan sprained his left ankle in a 111-96 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Duncan would be out "a while" but didn't have a timetable.

The injury looked potentially serious as Duncan lay on his side, clutching his foot with both hands, for more than a minute. The 34-year-old All-Star steadied himself with the help of trainers while limping off the court.

Ekpe Udoh led Golden State with 15 points. It was Udoh's foot that Duncan appeared to be trying to avoid while landing awkwardly after hitting a short jumper in the first quarter.

Tony Parker added 17 points and 15 assists.

Until now, Duncan has avoided the aches and injuries that have hampered him in recent years. He's been so surprisingly durable that he's only missed one game. That was Saturday against Charlotte—when Spurs coach Gregg Popovich didn't want to risk Duncan injuring himself on the second night of a back-to-back.

Popovich's biggest fear happened two nights later instead.

The Warriors made a run at the Spurs run with Duncan out. Golden State trailed 64-58 in the third after a burst that left Popovich furious. His frustration cost him a technical foul, barking at official Leroy Richardson over a perceived foul on Richard Jefferson that wasn't called.

But the Spurs—and Popovich—quickly settled down.

San Antonio ended the quarter on a 20-9 run to blow the game back open. Rookie Tiago Splitter, the 7-footer who got his first NBA start in place of Duncan on Saturday, filled in again for his idol and finished with 10 points and 14 rebounds.

Steve Novak scored 13 points and Jefferson had 12 for the Spurs.

Acie Law and Dorrell Wright scored 14 apiece as the Warriors dropped their fifth straight. Golden State played a night after getting pummeled at Dallas by 28 points, and have one stop left in Houston on Wednesday before returning home Friday to host Toronto.

The loss assured Golden State a 14th straight season without a win in San Antonio. Put another way, the Warriors have never won in San Antonio since Duncan was drafted in 1997.

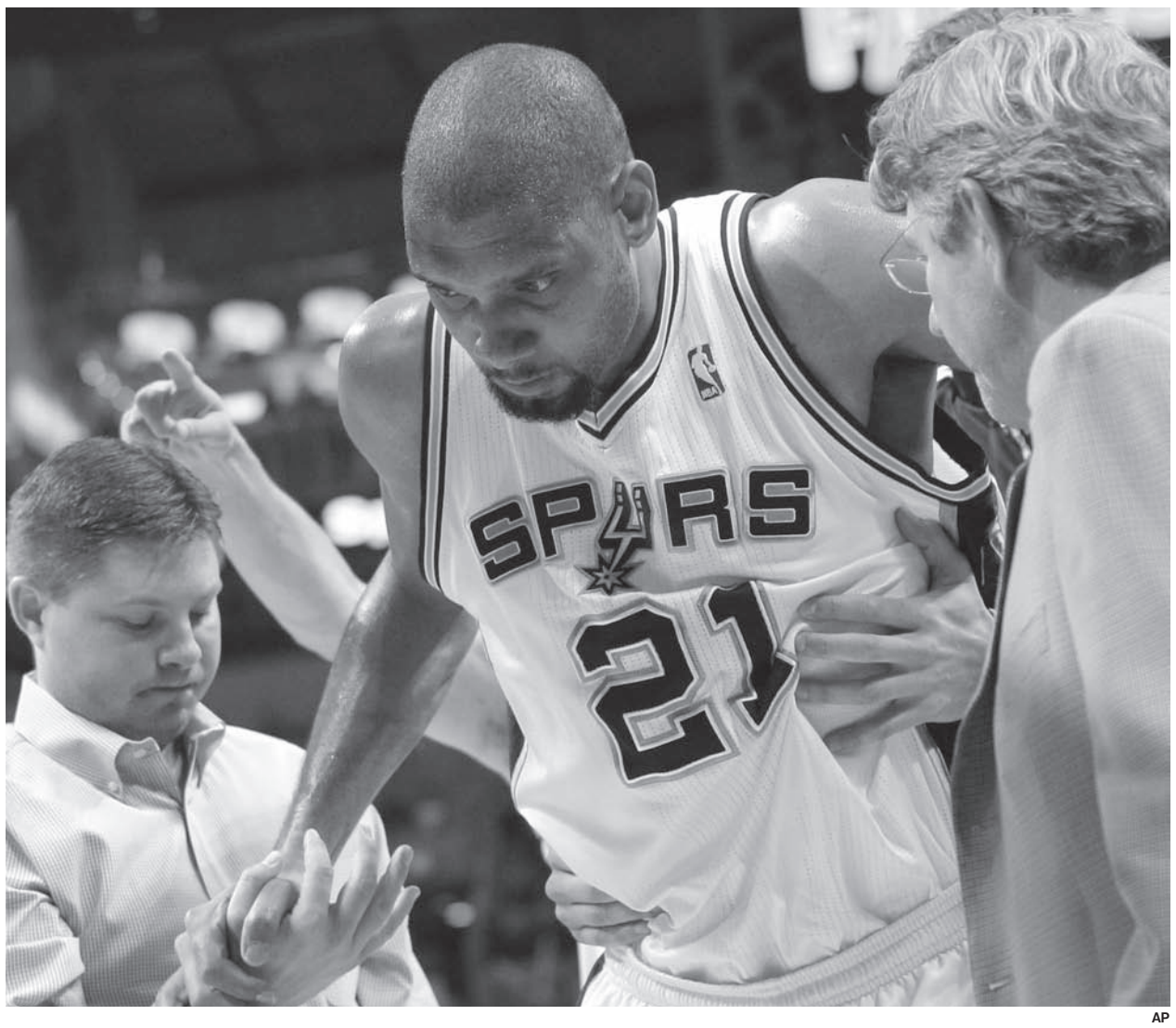
But Golden State has given the Spurs two Duncan scares this season.

In January, Duncan fell to the floor and cringed for about a minute during a 113-102 win at Golden State. He was diagnosed with a hyperextended left knee and returned to the game.

That wasn't the case this time. He limped off the court with the help of trainers and did not return.

The AT&T Center fell quiet when Duncan crashed to the court and reached for his foot. Parker was one of the first players over to check on him; Parker then turned and winced at Popovich, who was standing in front of the Spurs bench with his hands in his pockets and watching his two-time MVP writhe on the ground.

Before Saturday, Duncan had been the only Spurs player to start the team's first 68 games. Even though his role has greatly diminished and his averages are at career lows, Duncan remains a big reason why the Spurs (57-13) are on pace to surpass their franchise record of 63 wins set in 2005-06.



AP

San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) leaves the court after he sprained his left ankle during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors, Monday, March 21, 2011, in San Antonio.

Celtics 96, Knicks 86

In New York, Boston scored the final 10 points for a spirited victory over New York.

The Celtics showed the Knicks they will be tough to beat next month if this was a preview of a first-round playoff series.

Boston's Kevin Garnett had 24 points and 11 rebound while Rajon Rondo added 13 points and 12 rebounds.

Carmelo Anthony scored 22 points for the Knicks, but neither he nor Amare Stoudemire had a field goal in the fourth quarter.

Boston (50-19) matched its victory total from last season and remained tied with Chicago for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Moving kickoff, touchback a touchy issue

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Kickoff returns are among football's most popular and exciting plays. The NFL's competition committee wants to make them safer.

Committee chairman Rich McKay said Monday at the owners meetings that moving kickoffs up to the 35-yard line and bringing touchbacks out to the 25 have spurred "healthy discussions" among coaches and general managers. So much so that some alterations could be coming to proposed changes, which also include eliminating the blocking wedge and limiting coverage players from long run-ups.

Owners will vote on those proposals Tuesday, along with amendments to defenseless player rules for receivers, and allowing the replay official to review all scoring plays at any time in games.

"This is a rule 100 percent based on player safety," said McKay, president of the Atlanta Falcons, referring to the kickoff proposals. "We've seen higher rates of injuries than we are comfortable with and we're trying to remedy it."

Several coaches expressed concerns to the committee about so many changes to such a "game-changing" play. They worried that bringing touchbacks out to the 25 instead of the 20 would affect field position too much. They also fear an increase in touchbacks.

McKay said there will be more meetings before Tuesday's vote.

"I don't blame anybody for saying this is a big change—it is," McKay he said. "Nor do I blame anyone for pushing back. That's good. They made a lot of good suggestions."

During the committee's meetings last month with players in Indianapolis, kickoffs drew much attention. McKay said players voiced their concerns, adding that video showed a rising rate of injury.

The league reduced the number of players allowed in a blocking wedge to two in 2009. Now, it wants the wedge gone altogether.

Restricting how far coverage players can run up before the kickoff to 5 yards also is a safety measure.

As for replay, McKay said coaches complained of too much pressure when it came to challenging scoring plays, especially when they're playing on the road and the play often quickly disappears from the videoboard.

"If there's a doubt, we think the referee should review it," McKay said.

College rules allow replay officials to review every play. The NFL won't nearly go that far, but McKay reasons that with 20 percent of coaches' challenges coming on scoring plays, the burden to confirm scores should be on the replay official.

Of 53 challenges last year on scoring plays, 21 were upheld, reversing the call.

Passing this rule change would also eliminate the third challenge a coach gets if he is successful on the first two. The third challenge was used only eight times last season.

A proposal to ban players from launching themselves to make a tackle likely will pass. The committee was alarmed by the number of players using the technique, and NFL senior vice president Ray Anderson said the league could unilaterally act to outlaw it.

"We want to do it in a more inclusive, democratic way," said Anderson, the NFL's chief disciplinarian. "If it's a critical point we think we just have to act on in the best interest of the game, we have the authority to do it."

The change would not apply to the area between the tackles at the line of scrimmage.

Another amendment would expand the definition of a defenseless receiver to a player who attempts or makes a completed catch and hasn't had time to protect himself. He would be protected from hits to the neck or head area.

The league also wants to keep all of its fields green, so a team that wants to paint its field would need NFL approval.

"We don't want any red fields like at Eastern Washington," McKay said with a smile.

Grizzlies 103, Jazz 85

In Memphis, the hosts downed Utah to maintain their hold on the final Western Conference playoff spot.

Zach Randolph scored 19 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead seven Memphis players in double figures. Darrell Arthur scored 14 points on 7-of-11 shooting from the field.

Paul Millsap led Utah with 15 points.

Bulls 132, Kings 92

In Chicago, Derrick Rose and Kyle Korver scored 18 points apiece as Chicago routed Sacramento.

The win gave the Bulls their first 50-win season since 1997-98 and allowed Chicago to remain tied with Boston atop the Eastern Conference.

Carlos Boozer scored 16 points in his return to the Bulls' lineup after missing five games with a sprained ankle. He joined a balanced Bulls attack that had eight players scoring in double figures in a game that was not close after the first period.

Marcus Thornton led the Kings with 25 points.

Nuggets 123, Raptors 90

In Denver, the hosts' smothering defense forced 23 turnovers, helping Denver smash Toronto.

Ty Lawson scored 23 points for the Nuggets, who raced out to a 29-point lead in the second quarter and never looked back, beating the Raptors for the seventh straight time at home.

Denver was without guards Raymond Felton (left ankle) and Arron Afflalo (left hamstring), but hardly missed a beat. The Nuggets had seven players score in double figures as they improved to 10-4 since the deal that sent Carmelo Anthony to the New York Knicks.

Andrea Bargnani had 20 points for the Raptors.

Magic 97, Cavaliers 86

In Cleveland, Dwight Howard scored 28 points, grabbed 18 rebounds and was too much for Cleveland's front line to handle in leading Orlando to a win over the Cavaliers.

The Magic built a 15-point lead in the first quarter and were up by 26 late in the third. Cleveland pulled within 92-83 with 3:15 remaining, but Hedo Turkoglu's 3-pointer put Orlando back in control.

Orlando swept all four games against Cleveland, winning the season series for the first time since 2002-03. The teams were heated rivals just a year ago when LeBron James was still with the Cavs, but they're now at opposite ends of the NBA spectrum.

J.J. Hickson scored 18 for Cleveland, which has dropped three straight.

Pacers 102, Nets 98

In Newark, New Jersey, Indiana opened a two-game lead in the race for the final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference by beating New Jersey.

Roy Hibbert scored 24 points and Danny Granger had 17 of his 20 in the second half for the Pacers.

Brook Lopez had 20 points to lead the Nets, who saw Sundiata Gaines and Sasha Vujacic miss tying 3-point attempts in the final 15 seconds. New Jersey, which lost its fourth in the row, played without point guard Deron Williams, who missed his second straight game with a wrist injury.

Art of War 6 set on April 23

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Two mixed martial arts practitioners duke it out in this file photo from a previous Art of War event at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions will hold its Art of War 6 Grappling and Submission Challenge on April 23 at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

"The purpose of Art of War 6 is to spread the awareness of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in a tournament style and setting. This event caters to the unarmed combative practitioner looking to test his martial arts skills and techniques without the use striking. Similar to judo and wrestling, competitors are allowed to use various submission skills to defeat their opponents. There is also an elaborate scoring system in place so competitors can win by points as well," said Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez.

More importantly, he said Art of War is intended to be a goodwill competition for everyone.

"It keeps the integrity of competitive fighting at an all-time high and in-check, creating an avenue for us to continue making friendships through fighting," said Alvarez.

Art of War 6 matches start at 9am and the competition is expected to conclude by 4pm.

Trench Tech is calling out all interested martial artists to sign up now and start focusing their training for the competition.

Art of War 6 includes open classes for all levels in men's and women's divisions as well as novice and expert men and women's classes.

Weight categories include bantamweight (115-135 lbs), featherweight (136-145 lbs), lightweight (146-155 lbs), welterweight (156-170 lbs), middleweight (171-185 lbs), light heavyweight (186-205 lbs), and heavyweight (206 lbs and up).

The entrance fee is only $10 per player, per class, and winners in each category will receive gold, silver, or bronze medals, accordingly. Spectator admittance is $5.

Last year's gold medalists include bantamweight Shane Aguon of Guam; Trench Tech's featherweight "Badd" Brad Palacios; Trench Tech super-lightweight Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez; Trench Tech lightweight Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse; welterweight Ricki Rout of Abu Dhabi, Saipan middleweight Jose Mafnas; and heavyweight Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial of Marianas Elite.

Art of War 6 is sponsored by Docomo Pacific, Budget Rent-A-Car, Century Hotel, Hagu Next, Fokai International, Konflikt MMA, Miller-Lite, Monster, and Pepsi.

Interested participants are urged to call 483-4MMA (4662) to sign up or visit www.trenchtech.tv to sign up online.

Mahi Derby postponed to Saturday

After postponing it last week due to hazardous waves, the Saipan Fishermen's Association, in coordination with the Marianas Visitors Authority, will hold the 7th Annual Miller-Lite Mahi Fishing Derby this Saturday, March 26.

The event was originally scheduled last March 19, however SFA regretfully had to cancel the derby after receiving unsafe weather reports just hours before its startup.

About 20 to 25 participants are expected for this year's event where the top prize takes home the first place trophy and a cash prize of $1,500.

The awards banquet is set to follow immediately after the event, where the Top 5 place finishers will all be awarded trophies and prizes.

It costs $100 per boat to enter, for one captain and three anglers, and $25 for each additional crewmember.

All anglers must sign the release waiver form to participate, no exceptions.

Only Mahi fish will be counted toward the competition, regardless of the weight qualification; a boat can only win one prize per category.

At the start of the derby all boats must check in between 6am and 8am before heading out to sea.

All competitors must enter their catches to derby officials by the 5pm deadline at the Smiling Cove weigh-in station in order to qualify.

Pre-registration for the event takes place on Friday, March 25, 2011 at Smiling Cove Marina from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. Registration on the day of the derby starts at 5:30am at Smiling Cove Marina.

Pre-boat safety inspections are encouraged; contact the DPS Boat Safety Unit at 664-9180 for inspections.

For more information about the derby, contact Frank Tudela at 664-3200 or visit the SFA website at www.sfacnmi.com.

The *St. Andrew* topped last year's derby and won a cash prize of $1,500. A total of 38 boats from Saipan and Tinian made up last year's field.

Skippered by Juan Roberto, the *St. Andrew* came into Smiling Cove Marina with a monster mahi-mahi that tipped the scales at 25.40 lbs. Roberto's crew included Steve Reyes and Phil Roberto. ***(Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)***

CAREY

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kilometer swim race in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club, beating eventual overall winner Sam Gardner and placing 22nd among more than 90 finishers.

Carey completed the 60-km bike split under two hours with his 1:50:15 (14th best out of 84 bikers) while Oshima-Berger submitted 1:02:57 (sixth best out of 84 runners and faster than eventual Tagaman top female finisher Suzie Snyder) in the 15-km run.

Chentsova, Carey, and Oshima-Berger won their much-awaited showdown with the mixed trio of SSC swimmer Grace Kimball, biker Kieran Daly, and runner Jeff Race, who totaled 3:30:13.

Kimball finished the swim split in 33:45 (27th), Daly tallied 1:47:49 (ninth) in the bike race, and Race clocked in at 1:08:06, battling Renata Bucher in a sprint race at the finish line at the American Memorial Park.

Japan's Tiyoko Takahashi and Katsuo Kawamura completed the Top 3 in the mixed division and overall standings after recording 3:38:47.

In the men's division, swimmer Pablo Antonio, biker Renato Calage, and runner Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel ruled the category after compiling a time of 3:40:54. Antonio timed in at 41:47 in the swim split, Calage submitted 1:53:20 in the bike race, and Kabiriel clocked in at 1:04:16 in the run split.

Other finishers in the team event were Daniel Villegas, Cesar Fortaleza, and Chang Wang Jang (3:57:34); Cooper Schraudenbach, Derek Chambers, and Scott Hayden (4:01:23); Kento Akimaru, Danilo Paquerez, and Hitoshi Miyawaki (4:04:54); David Banes, Paul Plankett, and Daniel Calvo (4:21:57); Joshua Berger, Florence Antonio, and Irma Halaby (4:23:29); Kensuke Kimura and Fred Camacho (4:23:42); Vince Seman, David Burger, and Roma San Nicolas (4:33:22); Kaisei Toda and Ben Babauta (4:36:01); Andrew Kimball and John Jenkins (4:37:10); and Jim Arenovski, John Jones, and Steve Nutting (5:40:29).

MANACOP

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in Game 4 for an average of 200.75 pinfalls per game. He won by 21 pinfalls against Raphael Zapanta, who bowled on Day 2, but managed only 782 pinfalls. Zapanta had his lone 200-plus pinfalls in Game 2 (214), but fell short of passing Manacop after posting 191, 188, and 188 in the three other games.

Manacop also joined the second day of the monthly roll-off, but his 758 pinfalls was only good for fifth. Completing the Top 3 was Jae Yong Kim, who logged 776 pinfalls. The Korean bowler got off to a good start after knocking down 201 and 208 pins in Games 1 and 2, but slowed down in the last two games with his 179 and 168 for an average of 194 pinfalls.

In the Queen of the Lanes and Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes, Gloria Omechelang and M.J. Aldan prevailed over their respective foes.

Omechelang, who drilled only 559 pinfalls on Day 1, came back in the second day of the roll-offs on Monday and tallied the women's best 672 pinfalls. She started strong with Game 1's highest score of 189 pinfalls and then had 151, 149, and 183 in the last three games for an average of 168 pinfalls. She eclipsed the score of Day 1 leader Linda Yarobwemal, who carded a four-game total of 661 pinfalls and settled for runner-up honors. January winner Yho Villavicencio rounded out the Top 3 with her 659 pinfalls.

In the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes, Aldan notched his third straight monthly plum after scoring 582 pinfalls in the closely fought youth competition. Aldan won by only eight pinfalls against Nikko Gutierrez, who had a four-game total of 574. Aldan was behind after three games, 421-457, but stole the win after posting 159 pinfalls in Game 4 against Gutierrez's 117.

TWO

From Page 28

they will not make it to the next round of the annual tournament. Only the Top 5 teams in the seven-squad pool will advance to the double-elimination playoffs.

Though they failed to make it to the playoffs, Sablan said the experience in the "March Madness" was worth the trip.

"It made us realize where we are at as far as our level of play is concerned. We have to work very hard to keep pace with these players," Sablan said.

"When we played against teams from Korea, it seemed like you're seeing Kelvin Fitial taking me to school while we're in the paint," Sablan added.

The Hoopaholics first played against Joint Region Marianas, which according to Sablan is Andersen's second team. The Hoops led by four at halftime, but lost by seven in the end. Then the Hoops bowed to the Guam National Team by more than 20 points and more than 40 against the defending champions Defenders of Korea. The Defenders won last year's March Madness after thumping Joint Region Marianas A, 81-59.

The Hoops, who were scheduled to face Guam's MVP Stars in their final game last night, also lost to Area 3-All Stars and Osan AB of Korea.

D-9ERS

From Page 28

Delbert Aguon, Shane Yamada, and Eric Lizama loaded the bases with a trio of lead off singles.

Dennis Cruz then smashed a base hit that scored Aguon and Yamada, while Eric Lizama and Cruz scored later off errors.

A fly out later, Oliver Secharmidal and Jack Lizama reached off a single and a fielder's choice that set up a two-RBI rip by Nunu Kapileo.

The Angels did not answer in the bottom frame and the Ol'Aces added a run in the top of the fifth off an RBI single by Eric Lizama.

Then after two and half scoreless innings, the Angles managed a couple of runs in the bottom of the eighth off an RBI single by Marvin Kaipat and an error, but the Ol'Aces got it back in the top of the ninth and held on for the win.

Winning pitcher Jacob Babauta gave up one earned run in eight innings off four hits, two walks, and three bean balls with 10 strikeouts.

D-9ers 5, Brewers 3

The Brewers struck first with a run in the bottom of the second inning. Manny Sablan led off with a double and Mike Pangelinan followed suit with a two-bagger that brought him to the plate.

D-9ers went 1-2-3 to start the third and the Brewers went ahead, 3-0, in the bottom frame.

Mike Taitano drew a two-out walk and Byron Kaipat doubled him home. Tony Rogolifoi also reached on a fielder's choice and was driven in off single by Pangelinan. D-9ers' Mel Sakisat came to the mound to relieve J.P. Sablan to close the last out of the frame.

The D-9ers then tied the game at 3-all in the top of the fourth inning. E.J. Tenorio, Ben Mesa, and Chris Camacho loaded the bases off an error, a walk, and a bean ball, and a strikeout later Eric Tenroio cleared the bases with a double.

Both teams left a man in scoring position in the fifth inning and after the Brewers went 1-2-3 to start he sixth, D-9ers took the lead, 4-3, in the bottom frame off an error.

Both teams went 1-2-3 in the seventh, despite a couple of errors by the Brewers just before closing the last out of the frame at the plate.

D-9ers then added an insurance run in the top of the eighth off another error and held the Brewers in the bottom frame.

The Brewers' defense escaped the top of the ninth with the bases loaded, but left the lead off batter at first in its final stand.

Winning pitcher Sakisat pitched six and one third shutout innings and gave up just three hits, a walk, and a bean ball with a pair of strikeouts.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	50	19	.725	—
Philadelphia	36	34	.514	14 1/2
New York	35	35	.500	15 1/2
New Jersey	22	47	.319	28
Toronto	20	50	.286	30 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Miami	48	22	.686	—
x-Orlando	45	26	.634	3 1/2
Atlanta	40	30	.571	8
Charlotte	28	41	.406	19 1/2
Washington	17	51	.250	30

Central Division

y-Chicago	50	19	.725	—
Indiana	31	40	.437	20
Milwaukee	28	41	.406	22
Detroit	25	45	.357	25 1/2
Cleveland	13	56	.188	37

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	57	13	.814	—
x-Dallas	49	21	.700	8
New Orleans	40	31	.563	17 1/2
Memphis	39	32	.549	18 1/2
Houston	37	34	.521	20 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	45	24	.652	—
Denver	42	29	.592	4
Portland	40	30	.571	5 1/2
Utah	36	35	.507	10
Minnesota	17	54	.239	29

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	50	20	.714	—
Phoenix	35	33	.515	14
Golden State	30	41	.423	20 1/2
L.A. Clippers	27	44	.380	23 1/2
Sacramento	17	52	.246	32 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
Orlando 97, Cleveland 86
Indiana 102, New Jersey 98
Boston 96, New York 86
Chicago 132, Sacramento 92
Memphis 103, Utah 85
San Antonio 111, Golden State 96
Denver 123, Toronto 90

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2011 Tagaman Triathlon Bike Split

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bikers wait for their teammates at the south parking lot of Pacific Islands Club.

Seung Ryul Baek walks his bike and carries his broken shoes to the finish line.

Sam Gardner heads out of the swim-bike transition area.

Yun Ho Seo (11) and Byun Eun Jeon (10) head to the turnaround point at Banzai Cliff.

Renata Bucher heads down “elbow” road.

Daz Parker sets her eyes on the road, heading down Marpi.

Volunteers help a biker cross the finish line.

Spectators cheer a local biker who goes down “elbow” road in Marpi again after missing the tough climb on his first try.

Hiroyuki Suzuki checks his bike after crashing at “elbow” road.

Three Korean bikers pedal up the road near Palms Resort during the bike split in the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Carey, Oshima-Berger top Tagaman relay

»Chentsova this time completes team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kevin Carey and Mamiko Oshima-Berger won their second straight relay race, as they teamed up with Victoria Chentsova in ruling the relay race in the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday.

Biker Carey and runner Oshima-Berger topped the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship relay with Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru and in Tagaman, they picked another SSC swimmer in Chentsova and together the new trio logged the fastest time among the 14 teams in the relay race at three hours, 26 minutes, and 12 seconds.

Chentsova timed in at 31 minutes and 35 seconds in the two-

See CAREY on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Kevin Carey, Victoria Chentsova, and Mamiko Oshima-Berger enjoy a light moment during the awards presentation for the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club.

Manacop takes first monthly crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After two failed bids, Simon Manacop finally won a monthly title after ruling the Saipan Bowling Association-Budweiser King of the Lanes March roll-offs on Monday at the Capitol Bowling Center.

Manacop, who was runner-up in the January tournament and missed the Top 5 in the February roll-offs, bowled for two days this month and his Day 1 score of 803 pinfalls emerged as March's best, giving him the King of the Lanes crown.

In the Sunday roll-off, Manacop tallied more than 200 pinfalls in two games (221 and 212 in Games 2 and 3), had 196 in Game 1 and recorded 172

See MANACOP on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
March King and Queen of the Lanes Simon Manacop, left, and Gloria Omechelang pose for a photo after topping the monthly tournament on Monday at the Capitol Bowling Center.

D-9ers, Ol'Aces notch victories

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Ol'Aces shocked the St. Michael's Angels, 8-3, last Friday, while the D-9ers rallied against the Brewers, 5-3, Wednesday last week as the Saipan Major League season continued at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The D-9ers improved its win-loss record to 3-1, while the Brewers evened out its card to 2-2.

A six-run burst in the fourth inning helped break Ol'Aces into the win column after three tries. Meanwhile, the Angles endured its first loss in four games.

SML action continues tomorrow night at Tan Ko field with the D-9ers taking on the Angles at 6:30pm.

Ol'Aces 8, Angels 3

The Angels hit the board first with a run in the bottom of the third inning off an error, but the Ol'Aces lashed back and shot ahead, 6-1, in the top of the fourth frame.

See D-9ERS on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
The D-9ers, shown here in a file photo, came from behind to beat the Brewers in their SML game on March 16 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Two wins for Nationals; none for Hoops, RBC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Nationals boosted their chances for the playoff round in the 2011 March Madness Pacific Regional Basketball Championships after winning two games, while the Hoopaholics and Rollers Basketball Club's U20 are out of the competition.

According to Hoopaholics gunner Dave Sablan, the Nationals won over the Rollers yesterday at the Coral Reef Fitness and Sports Complex in Andersen Air Force Base and then beat a team from Korea on Sunday.

Pending the results of the Nationals' game against Guam's Naval Hospital last night, coach Rufino Aguon's wards hold a 2-3 record in the weeklong tournament.

The Nationals and Rollers are in Pool A of the two-bracket tournament, while the Hoopaholics are in Pool B. The Hoopaholics and Rollers share similar 0-5 records and with each team left with only one game,

See TWO on Page 26

Pete Iguel of Proa/CNMI Nationals is seen here going for a layup against Satbahi in last month's UBA/Docomo caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Nationals are in Guam and remain the lone Saipan team in contention in the "March Madness" tournament.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO